

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007

Volume 15, Number 4



PAINTED DIE VARIETIES – CONNECTIONS TO OUR PAST

Featured in this issue

- Iconography of NJ Colonial Paper
- Grading Imperfect Coins – A Challenge
- The “Crude American” Counterfeits
- French-American Reference Texts
- A Thomas Machin Scandal
- Machin’s Mill 1-47A
- Painted Die Varieties on Colonials
- C4 Convention Reports
- More on St. Patrick’s Coppers
- The Coin the Traveled around the World
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Bob Vlack
- Results – Part I of the Ringo Literature Auction
- New Colonial Discoveries



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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Charlie Rohrer at the address listed above. Dues are \$25-regular (including 1st class mailing of the Newsletter); \$10 for junior members (under 18).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There has been a lot happening since the last newsletter! The most significant event of course was the C4 Convention. It was another resounding success! The auction, educational events, exhibits and social events all went off without a hitch. Attendance was excellent, colonial dealers did well with sales, and most of us came home with fine additions to our collections.

A highlight of the convention was the public release of C4's fourth publication, "The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)." Authored by our C4 Editor, Syd Martin, it is a work that belongs in every colonial numismatic library whether you collect this series or not. There is more about Syd's book elsewhere in this issue.

Another event of note was the presentation of C4's Lifetime Achievement Award to Bob Vlack. Bob was unable to attend and his daughter Cheryl accepted in his place. A copy of Bob's 1965 work on colonial coinage was obtained and signed by all C4 members present at the convention. Cheryl forwarded the book to Bob and let me know how moved and appreciative he was. We owe a debt of gratitude to researchers of the past.

In 2007, we lost two valued members and friends, John Griffie and Mike Ringo. John's excitement and enthusiasm drew many to the hobby. Mike was a dealer in colonial coins, always treating everyone fairly. Mike was also a researcher and a fount of knowledge. All who knew them will miss both. 2007 witnessed the landmark EAC Convention in St. Louis. Visiting Eric Newman's Museum and speaking with him was my convention highlight. Attending the Summer ANA Convention is always a thrill and we held a well attended C4 Meeting there, too. The ANA membership voted in a new slate of officers, and we all need to give them our support.

2008 promises to be an exciting year! January has started off with the Stack's Americana Sale. Many C4 members were present. The sale consisted of Bob Vlack's collection of French Colonials, John Lorenzo's NJ Coppers and the first part of the Mike Ringo Collection. I was fortunate to obtain coins from each of those collections. The Americana Sale also plated a new discovery variety for the FUGIO series. Also this month was the annual ANS fund raising dinner and the NY International Convention. At the convention, John Kraljevic gave a presentation on the Order of the Cincinnati. I learned a lot from John. For those that don't know John, he can make collecting Lincoln Memorial Cents sound interesting! And just a couple days ago, it was made public that Stack's has identified a scarce CT Copper that came on consignment. 2008 is starting off with a blast!

2008 is also our C4 Election year. C4 is YOUR club, and this is your opportunity to nominate members that you feel would do a good job for you. You don't need to think that anyone is doing a bad job to nominate someone else! If you have met a C4 member that has impressed you with their knowledge, ability, personality or responsibility, nominate them to run for a C4 Officer position. If you think that you have the desire to contribute to C4, it's okay (it's encouraged) to nominate yourself. The identity of the person who nominates is kept confidential. Even if the person who is nominated declines, they will feel honored that someone thought that highly of them. The positions you can nominate for are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary or one of the Regional VP positions. The procedure for nominating is elsewhere in this issue. Please flood us with nominations!

I've had a preview of this C4N and there's something for everyone here! So without further delay, enjoy the following pages. Have FUN! Ray Williams

CLOSE ENOUGH FOR GOVERNMENT WORK

(David D. Gladfelter)

The several series of bills of credit emitted by authority of New Jersey's colonial legislature from 1728 through the last issue prior to independence dated March 25, 1776, are denominated in pounds, shillings and pence, but the 6s and 12s denominations also bear another kind of value symbol – one solid circle on the 6s bills and two on the 12s ones. Nowhere to my knowledge does it state in contemporaneous records exactly what those symbols mean.

The source of the symbols can be traced to a rare manuscript copy of the act of February 10, 1727/8¹ authorizing the issue dated March 25, 1728. (See Figure 1a and, for a transcription, Figure 1b.) In the margin of this manuscript act, which is kept in the library of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, appear the circle or dot symbols opposite the respective 6s and 12s print run authorizations, without further explanation.² (See Figures 2 and 3, respectively.) Other symbols, not all of which were actually used on currency, appear opposite the authorizations for other denominations. It is generally accepted, however, that the dots represent the Spanish milled dollar, meaning that a New Jersey 6 shilling bill was intended to pass for one “pillar dollar” and a 12 shilling bill for two.

The value is also given on these early bills in terms of “silver”.³ In 1758 the term “plate”, meaning bullion, was substituted for the term “silver”. Thus, the 6 and 12 shilling denominations of New Jersey colonial currency carried three indications of value – in metal, in coin of the Spanish realm, and in New Jersey's money of account.

This money of account was also known as “proclamation money” or “proc.” In an attempt to keep their silver coins in circulation, the early colonists inflated their value, but to control this, Queen Anne in 1704 issued a proclamation limiting the rate of inflation to a maximum 33 per cent. Thus the Spanish dollar, worth 4s6d in sterling, was valued at 6s, or 33% more, in New Jersey bills of credit.⁴

One can do a little exercise in arithmetic to test the colonists' valuations and to verify that the dot symbols did indeed refer to the Spanish milled dollar. I did this for the 6s valuation only. Here is the result.

The British 1 shilling coin of the period (there was no 6s coin, the closest being the crown or 5s piece) weighed 6.02 grams, .925 fine. Four of these plus a sixpence therefore weighed 27.09 grams, the equivalent of 17 pennyweight and 10.05 grains.⁵ As noted above, 4s6d sterling was equivalent to 6s proc.

The Spanish milled dollar of the period (the pillar dollar) weighed 27.07 grams, .918 fine. Its pure silver content was therefore 24.850 grams, compared with 25.058 grams for the sterling coins. The difference is 0.208 grams, or in grains, 3.21.

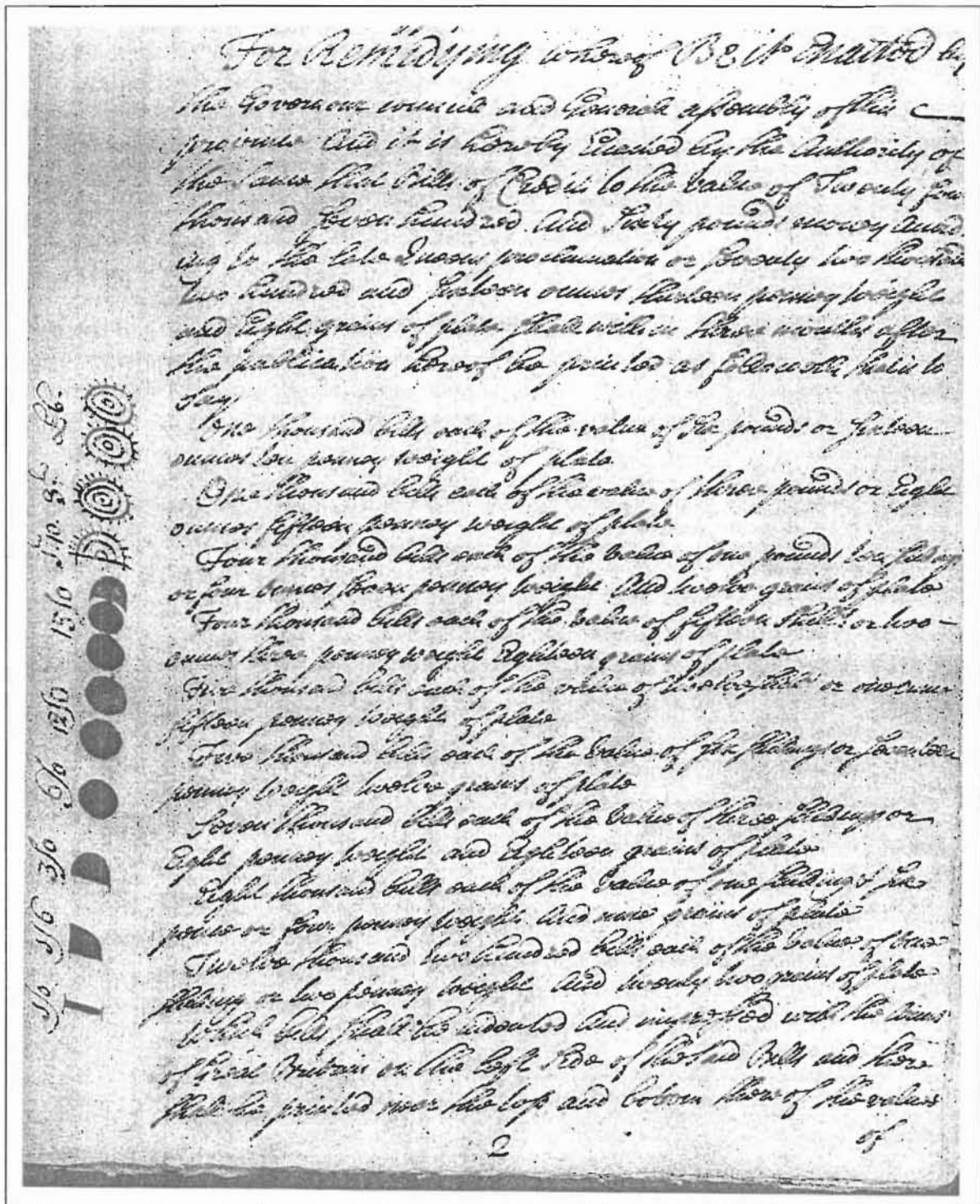


Figure 1a. Authorizing Document for Symbols Used on New Jersey Bills.
(See Figure 1b for a Transcription)

"For Remedying whereof Be it Enacted by the Governour council and General assembly of this ---province And it is hereby Enacted by the Authority o fthe Same that Bills of Credit to the value of Twenty four thousand four hundred and sixty pounds money Accord=ing to the late Queens proclamation or seventy two thousand two hundred and sixteen ounces thirteen penney weight and Eight grains of plate shall within three months after the publication hereof be printed as followeth that is to say (in margin: Two sun symbols and "£6.") One thousand bills each of the value of six pounds or sixteen ounces ten penney weight of plate (in margin: One sun symbol and "3£:") One thousand bills each of the value of three pounds or Eight ounces fifteen penney weight of plate (in margin: The right half of a sun symbol and "1£:10.") "Four thousand bills each of the value of one pounds ten shillings or four ounces seven penney weight and twelve grains of plate (in margin: Two and a half dot symbols and "15/0") Four thousand bills each of the value of fifteen shills: or two-ounces three penney weight Eighteen grains of plate (in margin: Two dot symbols and "12/0") Five thousand bills each of the value of twelve shills: or one ounce fifteen penney weight of plate (in margin: One dot symbol and "6/0") Five thousand bills each of the value of six shills: or seventeen penney weight twelve grains of plate (in margin: The right half of a dot symbol and "3/0") "Seven thousand bills each of the value of three shillings or eight penney weight and eighteen grains of plate (in margin: The lower right quarter of a dot symbol and "1/6") Eight thousand bills each of the value of one shilling & six pence or four penney weight and nine grains of plate (in margin: Numeral "I" and "1/0") "Twelve thousand two hundred bills each of the value of one shilling or two penney weight and twenty two grains of plate Which shall be indented and impressed with the arms of Great Britain on the left side of the said Bills and there shall be printed near the top and bottom thereof the values of ... "

Author's Note: The "remedying" refers back to legislative findings, set forth in the preamble to the Act, that the previous issue in 1724 of bills of credit had been recalled because of counterfeiting. The purpose of the 1728 issue was to replace the 1724 issue. As we know, Samuel Keimer got the printing contract and he and his 22 year old employee, Benjamin Franklin, set up a print shop in Burlington, New Jersey, where this issue was printed. None of the 1728 bills are known to have survived.

FIGURE 1b – Transcription of Figure 1a

The New Jersey 6s bills, authorized to pass at 17 pennyweight and 12 grains of (sterling) silver, were therefore 1.95 grains “over max” for proc when valued in terms of sterling. But they were 1.26 grains within tolerance when valued in terms of Spanish colonial silver. In today’s parlance, we might say, “close enough for government work.”

But also close enough to safely conclude that the terms “silver” and “plate” used on the New Jersey bills of credit meant “sterling”, and also that the solid circles or dots in fact symbolized the Spanish milled dollar – one on the 6s bill and two on the 12.

REFERENCES

- Eric P. Newman, The Early Paper Money of America, 4th ed. (Iola, Krause Publications, 1997).
John J. McCusker, Money and Exchange in Europe and America, 1600-1775 (Chapel Hill, Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1978).
Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler, Standard Catalog of World Coins, 19th ed. 2 vols. (Iola, Krause Publications, 1991).



Figure 2. New Jersey Bill of 20 October 1758
Note the Single “Dot”



Figure 3. New Jersey 12 Shilling Bill of 22 June 1756
Note the two "dots" and reference to "Silver"

ENDNOTES

- ¹ According to the Julian calendar in use in Britain and the U.S. before 1752, the new year began on March 25th. The cited act was passed in the month preceding March 25, 1728.
- ² A detail showing these symbols is reproduced in Newman, *infra*, page 27. A form layout of a bill, taken from the same manuscript act, appears in Newman, page 245.
- ³ The fineness is neither specified on the bills themselves, nor in the legislation authorizing them. The fineness of British sterling silver coins of the period was .925, that of Spanish silver coins minted in Mexico was .918, and that of the first U. S. dollar minted in 1794 was .8924. These valuations, and the corresponding coin weights, are taken from Krause and Mishler, *infra*.
- ⁴ This was the ratio at par. The colonial paper currency of New Jersey and the other colonies was frequently discounted in actual transactions.
- ⁵ A pennyweight (dwt) is equal to 24 grains. A grain is equal to 0.0648 grams. 480 grains = 20 dwt = 31.103 grams = 1 troy ounce. The calculation is therefore: 27.09 divided by 0.0648 = 418.05 grains = 17 dwt and 10.05 grains.

THE THOMAS MACHIN SCANDAL

(Marc Mayhugh)

Captain Thomas Machin's place in history is primarily secured by two of his many accomplishments. The first was the construction of a huge chain across the Hudson River that he engineered during the Revolutionary War, blocking a British advance up the river, and the second was the establishment of a mint at his mills near Newburgh, New York, where he coined counterfeit British Halfpence. Links of the great chain are still proudly displayed at West Point, and today his so-called "Tory Halfpence" are avidly sought by colonial coin collectors.

Machin, a member of the Boston Tea Party, a Mason, and a member of the Society of Cincinnati, has, up to this point, enjoyed a flawless and impeccable reputation as an American patriot and citizen; however, an article appearing on the internet has recently challenged this perception based on some new documentation, and paints a rather seedy picture of the distinguished Captain. The article entitled, "Making More Sense of Machin" by Kenneth Lifshitz,¹ is based on several newly published letters to Machin, and on his pension application. One of the letters is from Machin's friend and fellow soldier, Andrew Porter, and another is from an unknown relative of Porter's. This new material was obtained at "Jim Morrison's pension website."

Lifshitz begins by acknowledging that Machin was indeed a "rising star" and "golden boy" of the American revolution, citing many of his accomplishments and skills, while also noting that he was very well respected by his fellow officers. That is up until 1781, at which point Machin enlists the aid of his friend Andrew Porter in his search for a wife. According to Lifshitz, Porter arranges a match for Machin with a Philadelphia socialite . . . and then the trouble begins. No details are given, but the affair somehow falls through with Machin committing a terrible *faux pas* in the relationship, which the author claims leads to his downfall, results in a courts martial, and plunges his promising career into obscurity. Citing a letter from one of Porter's relatives, a year or so later, Lifshitz maintains that Machin still intended to renew his affections for the lady known only as "P" despite the fact that he had recently married Susan Van Norstand. Lifshitz tells us that, "Machin was a passionate individual in both his personal and professional affairs but not always of the highest discretion on the personal side. (Evidence the Woodward letters concerning their sexual exploits in New Windsor.²) Whatever moral lapse occurred in Machin's behavior, it evidently colored their opinion of him thenceforth and his eclipse from the social favor of the "Philadelphia Lions" of genteel society would dog him the rest of his days".

Lifshitz's indictment of Machin does not stop here. He goes on to claim that Machin lost the respect of his superiors, especially that of George Clinton; further, he also suggests that the wounds that Machin received during the war were exaggerated and that after first being denied a pension, he later received one only through the aid of a doctor who was a sympathetic fellow Mason.

As a collector of Machin material I was both shocked and dismayed after reading this article. It certainly destroyed the rather fanciful image I had constructed in my mind of Thomas Machin. It almost seems that Lifshitz revels in the downfall of Machin, but if he has the material to back up his assertions then more power to him. Machin was only human and thus subject to the same temptations we all face. I am not an expert on 18th century documents and hope that time will bring about closer examination of this new material. Several of these allegations seem a little preposterous while others may have something to them. For example, it is hard to believe that Machin fell from favor with George Clinton, although I have always wondered why with such an influential friend as the New York Governor, Machin could not secure his coining contract. Lifshitz claims that Machin fell out of favor with Clinton because Clinton was jealous that Machin had become well to do. This hardly seems likely to have occurred on a Captain's commission especially during a period of hard times. Also, there is quite a bit of correspondence (see Jepta Simms, "History of Schoharie County") that indicates Clinton and Machin were on good terms long after 1781, even the property where Machin established his mills belonged to Clinton and Machin did not vacate these premises until sometime in the 1790's. It hardly seems likely Clinton would allow Machin to remain on his property if there was a problem between them or if he was jealous of him.

I have read in the Journals of the Continental Congress that some money was lost with Machin's baggage after the fall of Fort Montgomery, but Machin was absolved of any wrong doing. Nor do I have any notion of Machin's sexual exploits at New Windsor via the Woodward papers, although these letters might make for entertaining reading. As to the Machin courts martial alluded to by Lifshitz, I've found out that it was for recruiting violations while he worked as an army recruiter in New York.

Of course, I have never heard of the Mystic "P" before, however, on several occasions I have read that Machin had to convince his future wife and her family that he was not already married when he proposed to Susan Van Nostrand. The wife in question supposedly resided in Boston and Machin had to send Thomas Dunning to Boston who, "ascertained the complete falsity of the report."³ The fact that Machin's marital status would be questioned is rather intriguing one.

Scandals in the 18th Century occurred just as they do today. Some hardly dented the person's reputation, while others had a devastating effect. For instance, the scandal at Bizarre (an alleged abortion by his sister-in-law) destroyed the Richard Randolph family of Virginia⁴, while Thomas Jefferson's relationships with his slaves barely affected his popularity. Alexander Hamilton publicly admitted to having an extramarital affair, being caught up in the old "badger game" and paying extortion money to the woman's husband;⁵ however, the last time I checked his portrait was still on the ten dollar bill. There are some who claim this affair cost him a run at the presidency though. Mr. Lifshitz would have us believe Capt. Machin paid dearly for his indiscretions at the time, but his reputation today remains intact, especially in his home state. Only time will tell what effect this new information will have on the good Captain's character.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ See <http://kenlifshitz.com/books.html>
- ² Peter Woodward Correspondence. New York Historical Society.
- ³ Schoharie County Historical Review, "Captain Thomas Machin," Oct. 1955, p. 11.
- ⁴ Kierner, Cynthia A. "Scandal at Bizarre: Rumor and Reputation in Jefferson's America," Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.
Interestingly, Nancy, the victim of the Bizarre scandal ended up marrying Gouverneur Morris after years of poverty and public humiliation.
- ⁵ Any recent biography of Hamilton covers this affair. See, as an example: Chernow, Ron. "Alexander Hamilton" The Penguin Press, New York, 2004.



A GEORGE II TORY COPPER: Vlack 1-47A

(Marc Mayhugh)

Tory coppers are basically counterfeit British Halfpennies manufactured in America. They are associated with the die maker James F. Atlee and Capt. Thomas Machin's Mills, and thus, are sometimes called Atlee halfpence, or simply, "Machins". The early Tory issues are believed to be made in New York by Atlee and Walter Mould, and can be distinguished from the numerous British-made counterfeits and regal pieces by the simplified busts and wreaths which do not contain berries; the later, more elaborate issues produced at Machin's mills, can be recognized by the impossible dates of 1778, 1787, and 1788 – dates which do not appear on British counterfeits. All have single crossbars in the shield unlike the British pieces that portray outlined (or fimbriated) crossbars. For more distinctions between the two refer to Richard August and Ed Sarrafian's talk at the 1997 C4 convention.¹ Of the thirty plus varieties of Tory coppers only one is in imitation of a George II halfpence, and this the variety is known by the designation Vlack 1-47 A

Vlack 1-47A is a fairly scarce coin yet with a little patience a fairly decent example can be obtained. Walter Breen called the variety "rare" and noted that it was usually found in low grades.² As is the case with many Tory Coppers, V.1-47A turns up frequently in dealers junk boxes or can be purchased as a genuine British halfpenny from unknowing dealers. Breen, in his "Encyclopedia", made the rather confusing statement, "Any offered from different dies must show identical letter punches."³ This may have confused some over the years thinking there might be additional dies; however, there is only one known variety of a 1747 Tory halfpence, and that is the Vlack 1-47A. Things to look for are no berries in the wreath, large stops or pellets in the legends, or the dead give away, "tilting" 7's in the date. With a little luck perhaps one can be cherry picked at the next coin show.

It is interesting to speculate as to why the makers of Tory halfpence chose to produce only one example of a George II halfpence, for there must have been many George II pieces still in circulation with dates ranging from 1729 to 1754. Perhaps the date had special significance, or maybe the diesinkers just had the 1747 punches handy. Gary Trudgen indicates the date punches on V.1-47A link it to the other Vlack varieties V.17-87A, V.17-87B and V.17-87 E, which in turn are linked to the Nova Eboracs and the Brasher doubloon. This is a pretty famous connection that also ties them to John Bailey and Ephriam Brasher.⁴

Richard August and Ed Sarrafian believe Vlack 1-47A may be a transitional coin with the obverse being cut in the early New York period and the reverse developed later at Machin's Mills near Newburgh .

The 2006 C4 auction contained 3 nice examples of this 1747 dated Machin's Mill, grading VF35, VF30, and VF25. Still, none showed much detail within the shield. Breen's plate appears to be of one of the finest known.

If you are looking for a unique "type" coin, Vlack 1-47A might make a nice addition to your collection.

ENDNOTES

¹ Richard August and Ed Sarrafian: "Thomas Machin, James Atlee and Abel Buell."

² Breen, Walter. "Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins" 1988.

³ *Ibid*

⁴ Trudgen, Gary A. "James Atlee's Imitation British Halfpence," *Colonial Newsletter*, March 1987, vol. 27, no.1.



A Vlack 1-47A Machin's Mill halfpenny, showing typical weakness in upper left quadrant of the obverse. (Editor's collection, Rothschild photo.)

MIKE RINGO'S CRUDE AMERICAN FAMILY OF COUNTERFEITS

(Byron Weston)

Mike Ringo had for years been developing theories about the possible American provenance of various contemporary counterfeit halfpence and, prior to his untimely death, was beginning to develop a manuscript for publication in the *Colonial Newsletter*. Fortunately Mike did leave us some clues and it was fortuitous that John Kraljevich included some of Mike's envelope notations in the lot descriptions in the Stack's Americana Sale (15 January 2008), during which many of Mike's counterfeits were sold.

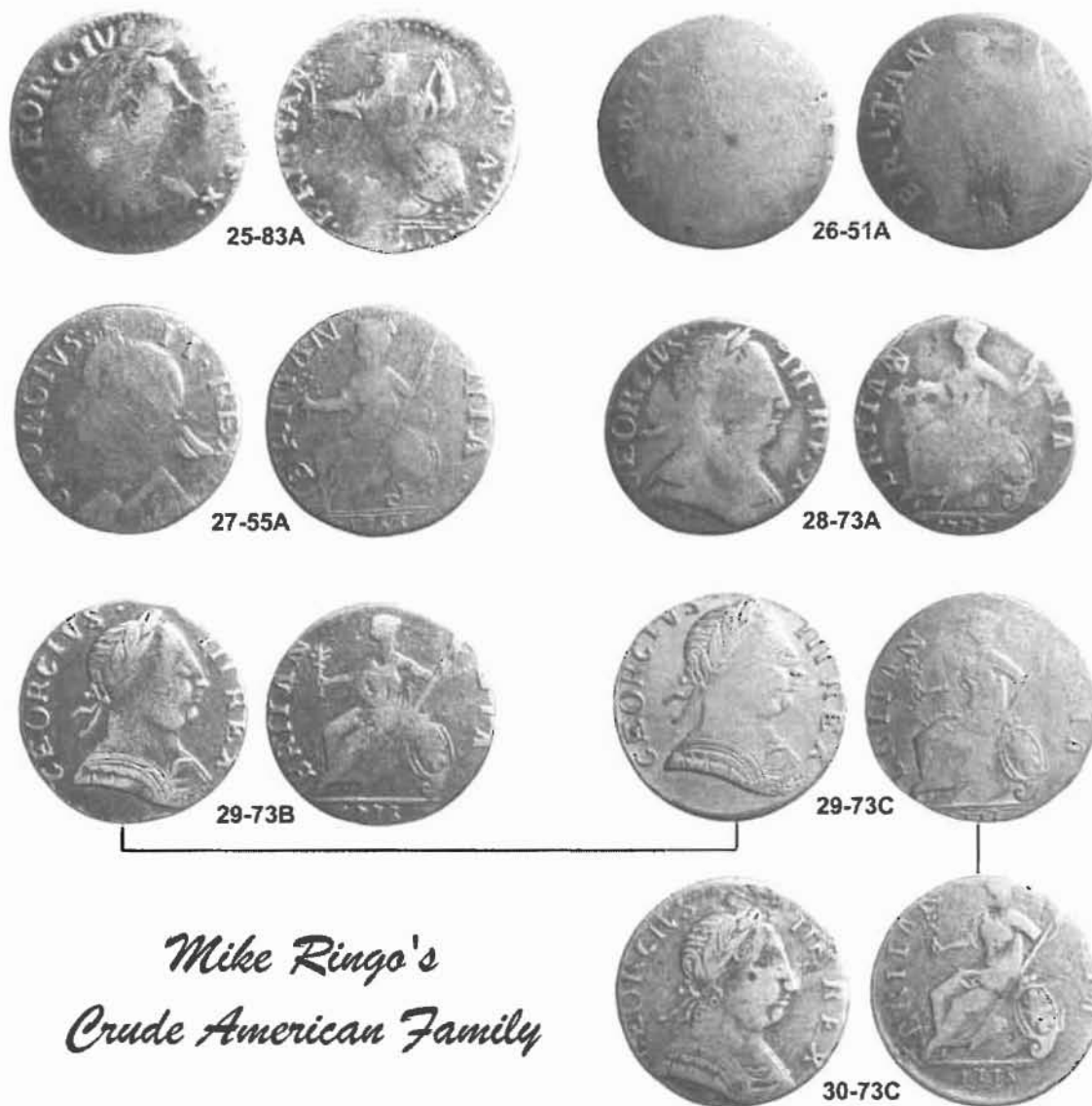
The only real indication of where Mike may have been going with his line of thinking was a group of images he'd sent me that he called his "Crude American Family" (see Figure 1) and a paragraph that he'd read years before at a COAC conference. He and I had also skimmed over his thoughts on this Family during a lengthy discussion at the 2004 pre-ANA in Monroeville, PA, as I examined his entire counterfeits collection. Otherwise, I had no clue to the extent of his thoughts until the Stack's Americana auction catalog arrived and I began to decipher Mike's envelope notations.

Table 1 presents data pertinent to this family, which I have extracted from Mike's COAC dissertation and the Ford IX and Americana 2008 catalogues. Whether or not I

Designation	Ringo Photo #	Auction/Lot #	Notes
M. 2.3-T		Ford IX:246	a.k.a Betts 7; M. 2.4-U struck from the same dies. Newman's 2.5-V obverse is a reworked 2.3 with two periods above the head before CONNEC - the laurel leaf on the right has become a period, and a new leaf has been added to the left of the existing one. Reverses T, U, and V are all the same die. 2.6-W, renamed by Vlack as CT-86A, was a different obverse than these, sharing its reverse die with V. 16-86A. MKR, COAC
R. 25-83A	8301MKR	Americana:5972	Similarities with M. 2.3-T discussed in the lot description.
R. 26-51A	5101MKR	Americana:5809	Ringo designation given in the lot description.
R. 27-55A	5501MKR	Americana:5827	Ringo designation given in the lot description.
R. 28-73A	7322MKR	Americana:5968	Described as dated 1777/6. Ringo designation indicates a 1773 date. Much smaller bottom of the 3 is indistinct and appears to be filled in.
R. 29-73B	7323MKR	Americana:5967	Described as dated 1777/6, Ringo designation indicates a 1773 date, obverse die links with 5966. Much smaller bottom of the 3 is nearly filled in
R. 29-73C	7324MKR	Americana:5966	Described as dated 1777. Reverse die links with 5886 and 5887, both clearly dated 1773, this reverse date near the edge of the planchet not showing the bottom of the numeral 3. Obverse die links with 5967.
R. 30-73C	7321MKR	Americana:5886 and Americana:5887 (duplicates)	Correct 1773 date given in the lot descriptions. 5886 lot description includes, "obverse is clearly related to those used on the 1777/6 varieties" and "Small but very clear 1773 date is entirely on the planchet...with interesting familial relationships."
Lot 6011, a crude style Irish counterfeit halfpenny, given the designation IR-6 by MKR, is also associated with M. 2.3-T in the lot description. It along with other similarly designated crude style Irish counterfeits, lots 6021, IR 4 (R.65-76F); 6022, IR-3 (R.64-76E); 6024, IR-3 (R.63-76E); 6025 & 6026 IR-2 (R.62-76D); 6027, 6029 & 6030, IR-1 (R.61-76C); 6037 & 6039, IR-5 (IR R.68); 6041, IR-10; 6047, IR-5 (IR R.78) suggests that MKR may have also believed these to be part of this "Crude American" Family, consisting of both British and Irish crude style counterfeit halfpence. [All lots noted in this cell are from the Americana Sale.]			

Table 1. Possible Family Relationships

might agree with any of Mike's assumptions or assertions is irrelevant but it is hoped that someone might eventually pick up where he'd left off and continue his pursuit of this "Crude American Family."



*Mike Ringo's
Crude American Family*

Table 1. Possible Family Relationships

AT LEAST ONE MILLION PATRICKS

(John N. Lupia III)

Among the earliest seventeenth century documents published on the St. Patrick coinage is one that dates to February 1674:

“There are 80 Sundays and holidays on which the priest says Mass, for which he demands and receives from all the communicants, 4 *patricks*, which makes 2d. English. This from 100 persons amounts to 16s. 8d. per week, and from every parish *per annum*, 66 £. 13s. 4d., which from 2,278 parishes is 151,866 £. 13s. 4d.”¹

The date of this document does not give us any new significant insight on the dating since 1673/4 is the established *terminus ante quem* for the coinage since 1971 when two St. Patrick farthings were found in the wreckage of the Royal Yacht Mary near the Skerries, off Anglesey.² Although this early document does not help date the year of minting for the St. Patrick coinage earlier than 1673 it does provide insight about the quantity of the halfpence coined and then in circulation.

Since 100 communicants gave four St. Patrick halfpence in any given parish in Ireland it means that the average parish received 400 St. Patrick halfpence on any given Sunday or on any one of the holidays in the liturgical year. According to this document there were 2,278 parishes. So that 400 X 2,278 Irish parishes = 911,200 St. Patrick halfpence collected during any one of the 80 Catholic Masses celebrated annually in Ireland in 1674. The grand total annual revenue collection for 1674 was 151,866 £. 13s. 4d or 72,895,844 *Patricks*. There is insufficient information in this report to determine if the nearly 73 million *Patricks* were all different individual specimens or what percentage of that amount were re-circulated coins over the year being counted twice or more than twice. However, considering that 250 varieties among what contemporary numismatists apparently erroneously call farthings are known to exist it would require 291,583 specimens per die to be minted if all had an equal lifespan. How many of these coins were minted can only be addressed by speculation. If ten percent of the total annual income represented the mintage in circulation then at least seven million coins were minted. This suggests that no less than one million halfpence or perhaps seven million or more were minted and in circulation before February 1674. Based on this evidence the earliest dating of the St. Patrick halfpence is at least 1673, the minimum amount of time it would take to mint the minimum quantity. However, if seven million coins were minted then perhaps seven years may have been required pushing the date back to 1667.

But what exactly is the St. Patrick halfpence cited in this 1674 document? Is it what we currently call the farthing or the halfpence, or are both type coins called *Patricks* having the value of a halfpenny then current in 1674?

Another document published fourteen years later may shed some light on this problem:

“A Patrick of Ireland, was worth an half penny. It was Coined in the time of King Charles the Second Excile, and is yet in use with us for small change and passeth but for a farthing, it hath King David Crowned supporting his Harp with this Inscription, Floreat Rex, and on the other side, St. Patrick in a Bishops Pontiffical habit, a Church behind him and written about Quiescat Plebs.”³

Holme clearly describes the St. Patrick halfpenny as that coin type anachronistically misidentified by modern numismatists since the eighteenth century as a farthing. It is reasonable to assume that the *Patricks* mentioned in 1674 are identical to the *Patricks of Ireland* cited by Holme in 1688. In the fourteen years from 1674 to 1688 Holmes informs us that these halfpence depreciated and at the time of his publication they were devalued to a farthing. Consequently, authors writing after 1688 uncritically assumed the current value of the smaller coin type were minted as farthings and the larger one as a halfpenny.

Holme wrote this testimony regarding the *Patricks of Ireland* as an elderly man of sixty-one years of age, reflecting back in time placing the coinage to that period when Charles II was Prince of Wales and while living in exile, before the restoration. This new document gives us the parameters of February 1646 to 23 May 1660, the period of Prince Charles' exile, for the issue of the series. If Holme is to be believed, the St. Patrick coinage dates to either the last years of the reign of Charles I, or, during the Commonwealth Period before Charles II returned to England and was officially invested as king.

Randle Holme III (1627-1699), wrote the most comprehensive illustrated encyclopedia of everyday life of the English 17th century we have today. His grandfather, Randle (Randolph) Holme I, (1571-1655) was the sheriff or deputy to the College of Arms for Cheshire, Shropshire and North Wales in 1615-1616, and was Mayor of Chester between 1633-1634. His father, Randle Holme II, was sheriff during his father's term as mayor 1633-1634, and a royalist Alderman of Chester during the Civil War siege from 1643-1645. At that time, Randle Holme III, then, 16-18 years of age, vividly recorded the damage to the city during those years of siege.⁴ In 1688, he was appointed *Sewer of the Chamber-in-Extraordinary* to his Majesty, King Charles II. He was three years older than Prince Charles, whom he claims is the one that had the St. Patrick's produced, which, on the surface, seemingly makes his testimony not only highly reliable but that of a contemporary eyewitness. However, his imprecise reckoning of the date of coinage to some vague fourteen year period of Charles II's exile leaves one wondering if his personal affiliation and ambition to please the incumbent king influenced him coloring and distorting his memory crediting him rather than his father Charles I with minting the St. Patrick coinage. On the other hand, his presence at the court of Charles II, together with his access to the king, leaves one wondering if he discussed this matter with him before writing his book – where he has given us the best rendering of this speculative and hypothetical conversation.

If the St. Patrick coinage dates to the 1650's as Holme's testimony would suggest, and if they were minted as some suppose by Pierre Blondeau, then they would date no earlier than the summer of 1651 when he first minted coins in England in gold and silver.⁵ Of course, the assumption or speculation that Blondeau minted the St. Patrick

coinage at all has never been substantiated with material or primary source evidence. Additionally, if one pursues the belief that he was the minter of this coinage it is equally possible that he could have done so earlier while at France.

“13. — to Wm. Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons. Six months since, I wrote the Council of State respecting some models for coin of a curious and new form, the invention of Peter Blondeau, a Frenchman, who presented himself to me, and offered his service to the commonwealth. I had formerly heard a fair report of his ability, but thought it proper to inform myself of it before I wrote, and was well assured, by several men well experienced in the Mint, that he is one of the ablest of his age in the art, and the only man that can do it, whereof he has made several proofs, both in gold, silver, and copper, with as much diligence and facility as is done by the ordinary mill; if Cardinal Richelieu and M. des Noyers, then Secretary of State, had lived,—who drew him from Italy, and gave him his dwelling here in the gallery of the Louvre, where his family yet remain, and where none but men of extraordinary art and skill are lodged,—he had certainly had the direction of all the coining of France. As for his life and carriage, he is a very honest and ingenious man, to whom all trust can be given in anything he undertakes. Since then he has gone to England, and made his proposition to the Parliament, a copy of which has been sent to me, and I am assured there is no doubt but he will perform the contents. His younger brother is here in Paris, and being of the same profession, and of good fame and reputation, he is resolved to go and join with him, if he can find employment. I see no cause why any difficulty should be made in using him, according to his offers, nor can there happen to the State but a great and glorious advantage by his propositions and petition, which I understand he is resolved to present to the Parliament, but which I have advised him to deliver to you, to be reported as your prudence shall judge convenient. [*Copy, translation, 1 1/4 pages.*]⁶

This document dated February 2, 1650 attests to Blondeau's earlier minting of coins in gold, silver and copper. So, if Holme is to be believed and if Blondeau were the minter of the St. Patrick coinage then the time of the minting could have been from 1646 to 1650.

The only relative certainty we have from these two primary documentary sources of 1674 and 1688 is that at least one million, but perhaps as many as seven million or more St. Patrick smaller halfpence were minted sometime between 1646 and 1660.

ENDNOTES

¹ Charles II: February 1674, *Calendar of State Papers Domestic: Charles II, 1673-5* (1904) :132-186. See February 1674, the second item number 3, thought to date to February cited with a question mark for the month.

² Dolley, Michael and Margaret Warhurst, "New Evidence for the Date of the So-called 'St. Patrick's Halfpence and Farthings,'" *Irish Numismatics* (Sept.-Oct., 1977): 161-163.

³ Holme, Randle (1627-1699), *The academy of armory, or, A storehouse of armory and blazon: containing the several variety of created beings, and how born in coats of arms, both foreign and domestick : with the instruments used in all trades and sciences, together with their terms of art : also the etymologies, definitions, and historical observations on the same, explicated and explained according to our modern language : very usefel [sic] for all gentlemen, scholars, divines, and all such as desire any knowledge in arts and sciences /by Randle Holme ...* (Chester: Printed for the author, 1688): Book III, Chapter 2 "Coins and Purses", page 30, item 85th; N.W. Alcock and Nancy Cox, *Living and Working in 17th Century England: An Encyclopedia of Drawings and Descriptions from Randle Holme's original manuscripts for "The Academy of Armory"* (1688). CD-ROM (The British Library, 2001).

⁴ Earwaker, J. P., "The Four Randle Holmes of Chester, Antiquaries, Heralds and Genealogists, c. 1571-1707", *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society*, 4 (1892): 113-70; "During the mayoralty of Randle Holme II, a strong royalist, the Assembly apparently did not meet between December 1643 and April 1644, and when it did, attendance had to be enforced. Some normal business was transacted, but the non-payment of rent and avoidance of market regulations suggest that the city's administration was disrupted. (n.8) A greater problem was the overcrowding caused by soldiers and their followers, royalist sympathizers, and refugees, who swelled the population to perhaps 7,600 by Easter 1644, increasing the pressures on supplies and the dangers of disorder and fire. (n.9) " -- in: 'Early modern Chester 1550-1762: The civil war and interregnum, 1642-60', *A History of the County of Chester: Volume 5 (i): The City of Chester: General History and Topography* (2003), pp. 115-25; Cheshire and Chester Archives and Local Studies (formerly Cheshire Record Office), Duke Street, Chester, see Assembly Books, 2, f. 61; Morrill, J. S., *Ches. 1630-60.: County Government and Society*, 20; *J.C.A.S.* lxxviii., 135.

⁵ *Calendar of State Papers Domestic : Interregnum, 1651*; Mary Anne Everett Green, ed. (1877) : 276-301

⁶ *Calendar of State Papers Domestic : Interregnum, 1649-1650* (1875) : 500-516

INTERNET GLEANINGS

(Roger S. Siboni)

Well, after a fairly hectic 2007, I am trying to gradually get back to the restful pursuit of numismatic research and plain old enjoyment of cruising the Internet. So to kick 2008 off to a good numismatic start, and with the not-so-subtle nudging of both our C4 President and Editor, I submit below a few gleanings from recent Internet postings.

POTATO/PATATO

Ray Williams raised the interesting question of what the Æ combination in NOVA CÆSAREA was actually called. After a few theories were bandied about, the general consensus led by Lou Jordan and Oliver Hoover, among others, was that it was called a diphthong. "Diphthong" means two letters bound together in Latin to combine into an entirely new letter with a slightly different sound that either letter alone would make.

While this was interesting, it evolved into a broader and often discussed set of threads dealing with the correct pronunciation of NOVA CÆSAREA and even NOVA CONSTELLATIO (or as Jim Spilman reminded us, technically CONSTELLATIO NOVA). In any event, again led by Oliver with some interesting help from Jon Lupia, we learned that the V in NOVA is pronounced like a W. That the C in CÆSAREA is pronounced like a K. Finally, that the EA ending in CÆSAREA is pronounced as an EH-UH. So, its NOWA KAE-SAR-EH-UH. Now John Lupia helped us along on NOVA CONSTELLATIO with NOWA and CONSTELLATIO being "pronounced as Con as in conman, stella as in Marlon Brando's famous scene in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and tea oh, as a Brit surprised its time for tea." I think we all got a laugh from that last lesson in diction.

CUT SILVER

Don Hartman raised an interesting question as to what tools were used in the process of cutting Spanish Milled Dollars into pieces of eight. David Menchell provided us with a most interesting catalogue reference for a modern set of sheers whose indicated purpose was solely for cutting Milled Dollars and Massachusetts Silver – with presumably no other purpose than to deceive.

A broader discussion ensued where it was speculated that most likely, the two most common instruments for producing contemporary cut silver were either an axe or hammer and chisel. Examples were posted and it appeared that both instruments were probably used over the course of time.

Marc Mayhugh was also able to post a contemporary reference to nefarious individuals actually making fifths to pass as quarter Pillar Dollars:

BY R. LYALL

The following letter was written by a black operative in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to his girl in Tortola, also in the Virgin Islands. Unfortunately, it is not known when the letter was written, but it was prior to 1843 when it was published in 'Letters from the Virgin Islands' by an anonymous author, who was, in fact, the Rev. R. C. Thomas, one time chaplain of Tortola.

"Dear Catryn, Dare much fine house, and bera much ship here; bera much fine gal too, but me lub Catryn all time. Buddy Smit say dat nigger Jock some cee you:—me too pale wid lub; hope you heart like mine. You berry dear to George. Me work for one dollar by day here; no ——— cut dollar, him make five quart, I tink, in de Road. Buddy Smit bring you dis; he say me lub you too much Catryn."

The deleted word in the penultimate sentence, presumably one which would have offended Victorian readers, would seem to show that George despised the cut coins and knew full well that someone in 'de Road' (ie Roadtown, capital of Tortola) was getting more than four quarter segments out of a whole dollar. What a pity he didn't tell Catryn the name of this person; had he done so, then, doubtless we would know who made the type II and III or type IV Tortola cut segments.

It would seem that Catryn was the black housemaid of the Rev. R. C. Thomas, and that the letter was shown to him by another girl in the household, who had stolen it from Catryn. Did George win back Catryn from nigger Jock? We shall never know.

Spink's Numismatic Circular Vol LXXXVII No., 6 June 1979

TOO MUCH WALKING AROUND MONEY

Finally, Randy Clark provided us with an interesting excerpt from the October 7, 1784 New Haven Gazette:

Fifty Guineas Reward.

THE subscriber, on the 10th Instant, about 8 o'clock at night, was assaulted in the highway leading from the post road in Stonington, to Long-Point, by three ruffians, who instantly seized his horse, and by a stroke with a hanger or broadsword, dismounted him; after which, they robbed him of 150 half johannes, 41 English guineas, and 20 half guineas, and then made off, leaving him dangerously wounded on the ground. The half-johannes had none of them been clipp'd or plugg'd, but some of the guineas were clipp'd.---Whoever will apprehend and secure the above robbers, or any of them, so that they may be brought to justice, and the money obtained shall be intitled to receive the above reward, from me.

HENDRICK HENDRICKSON.

September 11th, 1784.

After a spirited discussion about why it was that an individual would be riding alone at night with such a vast sum of money, there was a general discussion about how vast the sum of money would be in modern day terms. For a group of Colonial Numismatists, it was interesting to see how varied the opinions were, ranging from about \$1,500 to \$60,000.

This range was too wide and imprecise for me, so I took the liberty of contacting our resident, currency equivalent scholar, Phil Mossman. Here is how Phil responded to my inquiry:

I recall the message about the poor gentleman who was mugged and lost all his gold. I was in North Carolina at the time and did not respond since I needed my reference material. I had forgotten about it until you called me the other evening. Besides having to dig out from 14 inches of powdery white stuff, I hit the references yesterday and came up with some interesting material.

First of all, as I told you, there is a definition problem of what is a "half-joe." I remember this was an issue when I was doing my book and now I see it is even a bigger issue.

The large Portuguese gold comes 18 dwt [432 grains], or 18 dwt 8 grains [440 grains] full weight, which, according to the Massachusetts Act of October 23, 1784, is "commonly called a Johannes." In Philadelphia, Father Abraham's Almanac of 1759, Benj. Johnson, 1792, Samuel Sower 1793 and Franklin's

Almanac 1761 all agree. Also Isaiah Thomas 1805, Worcester, Mass., and Nicholas Pike, Worcester 1797, called the large coin a Johannes. By this reckoning, a half-joe would be 9 dwt 4 grains worth \$8.00 Federal money.

However, an equal number of almanacs call the 18 dwt 8 grains gold coin a "double Johannes," the half-sized coin becomes a "single Johannes" of 9 dwt 4 grains, and the half-joe now becomes a 4 dwt 14 grains coin! This was the rating in some Massachusetts almanacs and broadsides including Nathaniel Hurd, Boston, 1750; Daniel and Robert Fowle, 1765 Portsmouth, NH; Anderson's Almanac 1774 and 1775, Newport, RI; Isaac Bickerstaff, Boston 1788; Freebetter, 1777; Goodspeed, 1786; and Benj. West, Boston, 1773. So "yah pays your money and takes yah choice!"

This will make a definite difference in the value of a half-joe as cited in the Connecticut newspaper. What did they mean? What was the common parlance in that region? However, I do have a notice from New York from 1759 that called a half-joe the coin of 9 dwt 4 grains (see *Money*, p. 75).

There is no similar problem with the English guinea of 21 shillings, whose value was clearly established at \$4.667 Federal.

So now lets figure:

In 1784, 150 half-joes [@ 9 dwt 4 grains] were worth \$8.00 Federal dollars each [more on this later], for a total of: $150 \times 8.00 = \$1,200$.

In 1784, the 41 guineas were worth \$4.667 Federal dollars each, or \$191.35.
20 half-guineas would be \$46.67

So: $\$1,200 + \$191.35 + \$46.67 = \1438.02 Federal dollars in 1784.

Note that if the 150 half-joes were of the smaller 4 dwt 14 grains variety, their value in 1784 Federal dollars would have been only \$600, for a total of: $\$600 + \$191.35 + \$46.67 = \838.02 .

Now, let's convert these 1784 dollars into 2007 dollars using Consumer Price Index (CPI) tables. McCusker only goes to 2001 but I've extended mine to 2007 using his Internet site.

The Composite Commodity Price Index for 1784 is 123; for 2007 it is estimated at 2378. Thus,

$2378 \div 123 = 19.33$ as the inflator to adjust to 2007 dollars

[Note: I checked on several CPI tables for the same period and the ratios vary only slightly, from 19.333 to 19.234 and 19.231.]

So, in 2007 dollars, the total amount being carried would have been
 $\$1438.02 \times 19.33 = \$27,796.93$, for the larger half-joe, or
 $\$838.02 \times 19.33 = \$16,198.93$ for the smaller half-joe

The reward of 50 guineas is $50 \times \$4.667 = \233.35 1784 Federal dollars, which, when multiplied by 19.33 yields \$4510.66 2007 dollars.

Whether \$27,796.93 or \$16,198.93, this is still a pretty tidy sum to be riding around unchaperoned. As Buell Ish suggested however, perhaps in a day with no local banks or ATMs, it may have been the only way to get money from point A to B. Incidentally, I wonder how many of us have transported at least this much in our pockets to and from a local coin show?

IMPORTANT NOTICE

IT IS TIME FOR OUR BI-ANNUAL ELECTIONS. THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY DENNIS WIERZBA, WILL PREPARE A SLATE OF CANDIDATES TO BE NOMINATED FOR ALL ELECTED POSITIONS. SHOULD YOU WISH TO NOMINATE ANY C4 MEMBER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS, PLEASE CONTACT DENNIS AT:

sscrosby@comcast.net.

Dennis Wierzba



C4 Elected Officer Positions:

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER

SECRETARY

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS (Regions 1 through 7)

ALL NOMINEES WILL BE CONTACTED BY DENNIS TO DETERMINE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE IN THE POSITION TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN NOMINATED. REMEMBER, IT IS AN HONOR FOR SOMEONE TO BE NOMINATED.

MY C4 CONVENTION RECOLLECTIONS

(Ray Williams)

I am back from the convention and had a great time! Sorry I didn't write anything last night, but I was wiped out! My C4 Convention starts in the Summer with the planning, but I'll just start my convention experiences from last Thursday (28 November 2007).

This year Diane didn't travel with me. I'm hoping next year she'll be there as the convention will be two weeks before Thanksgiving. I got up early on Thursday, finished packing my car with convention material and headed for Roger Siboni's house. I met Syd Martin there and the three of us drove together to Boston. I was amazed that all the equipment I bring was able to fit in Roger's car, along with Syd's books and exhibit. It was a pleasant 5-hour drive to Boston, where we arrived about 2:30 and brought everything to our rooms. Then we walked in a gentle rain to Jim Skalbe's store (Collector's Shop) with a side-track at Colonial Trading. Then, it was back to the Hotel just in time for dealers to set up on the bourse floor. Being that C4 has tables for exhibits and the club, I get to go into the bourse early and set up. It didn't take long, thanks to help from Tim Martin, who just jumped right in and placed the C4 table cover under the cases and set up all the auction lot viewing tables. This year we had two awesome exhibits on William Pitt and on reproduction Continental Dollars. I hope to see articles in the C4 Newsletter talking about these topics in detail. About 8:00 that night, I left the Bourse floor and went to the Carver Salon III (where all C4 events were held), and we had our C4 Reception. Although it is not meant to be a dinner, I think there were many who had enough to eat so they passed on dinner. The C4 Reception is a time where we just gather, socialize, meet people and solve the problems of the world. There is a cash bar and also a big coffee urn too. About 10:30, I called it a night and headed back to the room.

This year I cut my convention costs by sharing a room with Oliver Hoover. Oliver is a very likeable Canadian, well versed in ancient coinage, and possessing a growing knowledge of colonials. He's written a number of articles pertaining to Colonials in the ANS Magazine. Oliver is a good conversationalist and all three nights of the convention we were talking until 1:30 in the AM!!! I'm still trying to get him to move south and sing the *Star Spangled Banner* instead of *Oh Canada*!

Friday AM started for me with a 7:30 breakfast meeting for the publications committee. This is a group of guys that really love the hobby and make publishing books possible for C4. You might not think that it's very difficult for a manuscript to be submitted and sent to a printer, but it's a lot more involved than that. It takes a LOT of work to go from manuscript to having a book on your bookshelf. I appreciate these guys (and all our volunteers)! Syd Martin's book on Wood's Hibernias was released at the convention. I bought my copy and had Syd autograph it. For this book, we are having Charles Davis do the distribution. My wife is thrilled that we don't need to have more cases of books filling our house! <BG> We only printed 500 copies and there has been a sizeable chunk of that promised to Spinks in Europe. The cost is **\$85 plus shipping and**

can be ordered from Charlie Davis at Numislit@aol.com This book could be a "textbook" example of how to write a numismatic book on a specialty series. I could talk about it for a few pages but will go back to the convention...

After the C4 Publications Committee breakfast meeting, it was to the bourse floor where I was involved at the C4 Table greeting people, accepting 2008 dues, talking about the hobby and such. I met about 10 members for the first time after they came up and introduced themselves. I hope I didn't miss anyone... At lunch time, I paid off my wager to Roger Siboni (read Buell's article about the Maris 77-cc in the last *C4 Newsletter*) and treated him to dinner at Legal Seafood. Buell Ish and Jack Howes were able to join us. It's so much fun to get together with friends to talk coins, but when you add food to the picture... what more could you want??? Back to the bourse floor until about 5:00 when I left to set up the A/V equipment for the educational events. About 5:30 the NJ Copper Symposium started. Most of the NJ Symposiums of recent years have not been a formal presentation but an informal sharing of information from all present. I lost count of how many NJ Symposiums we've had since the first one on April 20th, 1991... This was followed by refreshments and food. At the beginning of our Educational Forum, I was honored to be able to present Bob Vlack with a C4 Lifetime Achievement Award. Bob is in Florida and was unable to travel to the convention to receive it in person. In his place, Bob's daughter Cheryl accepted the award and read a message that Bob wrote for the C4 Membership. Several members shared their experiences with Bob and it was a moving experience for Cheryl, and for me too. Instead of making a plaque for Bob that would probably collect dust, C4 obtained a copy of Bob's 1965 book and had all the members present sign it. This was something much more personal and I'm sure Bob will pull it out often and read through all the names and notes.

The educational events all went off without a hitch – well almost... There was one MAC laptop which wouldn't work with the projector, but we were able to get around it by zooming a camera on the laptop screen, and projecting that on the wall... All the events were well attended. To save time (I do need to work) I'll not go into all the detail of the talks, but Syd Martin talked about Wood's Hibernia Coinage. Lou Jordan talked about annotations on colonial notes, and could actually map out how a note traveled across a colony! Leo Shane had a project about grading colonial coins with problems, which is continued in this *Newsletter*. Oliver Hoover gave a presentation about the French coins that financed our Revolution. Then, we finished the evening with Tim Martin talking about Numismatics and copyright law. You might think this last topic to be boring or unimportant, but for anyone doing numismatic writing of any kind, it is important to know. There were still between 25 and 30 members present for the final presentation.

At the end of the educational events, it was back to the room with all the A/V equipment. Then, it was down to the hotel restaurant to meet with friends. I wanted an ice cream but it was too late to get anything from the kitchen, so I settled for a cabernet. Then back to the room, good conversation with Oliver, then lights out at 1:30.

I awoke at 6:45, and it was off to the Annual C4 Board breakfast meeting in the hotel restaurant. Discussion on various topics and decisions were made. It's always nice

to handle some business face to face rather than with emails. Then at 8:30, the Annual C4 Business Meeting began in Carver Salon III. It was very well attended and a lot of participation. Even Clem was in attendance this year!!! The meeting went smoothly and even ended 10 minutes early!

Next, it was back to the Bourse Floor for a couple hours. I bought a meteorite from Tom Rinaldo, a 17-K NJ from Tony Terranova, two Lion Daalders from Dave Wnuck and a copy of Syd's book from Charlie Davis. Then I manned the C4 Table until about 1:00. There was a colonial happening this year where several members got together to weigh and photograph Miller 4-L CT Coppers while other members were doing the same with cut and clipped MA Silver. I had an example of each to contribute to their studies and I anxiously await the results to be printed in the *C4 Newsletter*. This was a two-hour event, ending at 3:00. [If anyone has a project they would like to conduct at the next convention, please contact me to make arrangements for next year. Please wait for the Summer to do so though.] At 3:00, Michael Fey gave a presentation about Silver Dollars. This was not a C4 event but I placed it in the program just in case any members have an interest in the topic. At 4:00 I gave a presentation about Washingtonia. It was not as intense as one of the Educational Forum presentations, and was geared for the general public. It was fun sharing some items from my collection with others. Then it was another trip to remove all the A/V equipment from the room and store it in my room.

The auction started about 6:35, with food before. It was called by Dan Freidus and at points was very entertaining. There was a donated lot of Frisbees collected by Mike Ringo and donated by his brother Tim. Dan skillfully (except when he hit the chandelier) tossed the lots to the successful bidders. These and other donated lots raised money for C4 to help defray convention expenses and help our overall operating budget. I don't want to embarrass him but Dave Menchell had some really awesome woodwork he donated to be auction, CNLF donated a CD of CNL to be auctioned, Spence donated a copy of Siboni II and there were several lots of books from the Ringo Library. In addition, there was a box of coin cleaners that belonged to Mike Ringo, including half a bottle of the original CARE!!!! There was a leather-bound copy of Syd's book that brought a good price, too. I appreciate all the consigners AND all the bidders whose bids did not necessarily reflect the value of what they purchased but was in reality a generous donation to C4!

After the auction it was back to the hotel restaurant where again the kitchen was closed (no ice cream) so I settled for a cabernet. Then back to the room and good conversation with Oliver until 1:30 AM.

On Sunday, I ordered a late wake up call (7:00), then SSS (an old military term), then down to the restaurant for breakfast. I enjoyed three helpings from the breakfast bar with Oliver Hoover and Roger Moore. Once fully weighed down, it was back to the room to bring all the donated lots, A/V equipment and my baggage to the bourse floor. I picked up my lots from the auction and discovered how much money I made on the lots consigned. I couldn't believe it... Some miscellaneous coins I had around and a few

duplicates brought me what added up to be a significant amount that I can use at the Americana Sale next month!!! I might even be able to get a R-6 or R-7 NJ!!! In any case, I met Frank J in the hallway and he said he heard from George L that the weather was getting bad in NJ (snow and ice). I started packing up the C4 material, said my goodbyes to all that were on the floor and started driving back to NJ at 12:15 with Syd and Roger. This time Neil followed us back to NJ for a good part of the way, then decided to take a scenic route different from ours. We met at a diner near Roger's house in NJ, had dinner, said goodbyes and parted company. I followed Syd on the highway for about 35 miles and then exited to go home. Diane was waiting for me and said, "NOW WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN!!!!!" Only kidding! Actually she had my slippers and a cup of coffee !!! There I go kidding again! I unpacked the car into my living room and sat down in my recliner, where I fell asleep for several hours.

Well, this gives you an idea of what a typical convention is for me. The convention is a lot of work done by many volunteers. Sometimes I'm in an event room, step back and just enjoy watching everyone having fun. There's no one standing alone. Newcomers are brought into conversations. Even Cheryl (Bob Vlack's daughter) was commenting about what a friendly group of guys we are. Cheryl came to receive the award – there are some pictures in this *Newsletter*... But she commented on being a little nervous about reading her father's letter and that she dressed so formally while I (and most) were in blue jeans. I told her that C4 is a very informal group of guys having fun; there was nothing to be nervous about, as these were all friends of Bob and almost like family.

Thanks to all that made it happen!

Greetings All: I wanted to post a public thanks to Diane Williams for all the behind the scenes work she does for C4. The quantity and quality of Ray's work clearly indicates that he is getting help (LOL). Sorry Ray, the temptation was too great. Seriously, I know that Diane had a lot to do with the Program, among other things. I referred to it frequently myself. One C4 member from my region even had me read it to him on the phone (I have an extra copy to give him). So, thanks Diane! I know I speak for the group in extending our sincere thanks. Hope to see you in person at the convention in 2008! Best Wishes, Buell [And all the rest of the C4ers! – Editor]

MY C4 CONVENTION*

(Clem Schettino)

Hey all: Ok, I'm starting to get caught up, but that doesn't mean I've had much of a chance to "play" with any newps yet ;-(, or update any inventories, or take any new pictures for that matter...hmmmm, I guess I've unpacked and have made piles (new coins, new books, notes/information, handouts, gifts, checks, etc, etc). So I'll tell you some of how/what C4 means for me...

THURSDAY

Thursday morning and afternoon was spent packing and preparing for my 10 mile "trip" to the convention site. Since so much happens at the convention I stay at the Radisson from Thursday night through Sunday checkout, and beyond. Since I haven't had a "real job" (paycheck) since last January, I don't have money to burn, so this year I waited for my wife to drive me in, avoiding the need to pay for garage parking for 4 days and 3 nights for a vehicle that wasn't going to move an inch. I got to my room about 4:30, dropped my stuff and brought my wares down to the bourse where I set up, all alone for the first time. I used to hang at Mike's table and even split the table with him once or twice but this was to be my first time ALONE. As fate would have it I virtually shared a table with my good friend from Ireland Dave Paling, which was a good thing because now we could wander off and we would watch out for each others stuff and not constantly need to lock it all up or put things behind our table. So I tossed my trays in my case, pre-loaded at home, and walked the floor. Running into many old friends at every turn is great and tentative plans were made with many of them, but on Thursday evening "set up", coins come first ;-). I often make deals just before the show by email, phone and personal contacts and this show is no different. A great friend/dealer had emailed me to say he picked up a collection of nearly 60 contemporary counterfeit Bust Halves which he knew I had recently started collecting and since I didn't yet have anywhere near that number of varieties this was a major coup but was to start me off set back many thousands of dollars! I picked up the collection Thursday night. Even

*Clem posted this on colonial-coins@yahoogroups.com for all to read. As editor, I thought this would be of interest to all members, as it "tells it like it is," in this case in the very words (which I've chosen not to heavily edit) of one of our stalwart members! It is used with his permission – thanks, Clem, for sharing.

though he pretty much knew I had no ready cash he was willing to let me have it and we would make terms later, but I did tell him I had good material and may be able to come up with some of the dough by shows end . . . more on that later. Next I went to see an old dealer friend who was supposed to have a counterfeit 1/2d for me. Unfortunately his shipment was late but he did have 3 pieces he forgot to show me last month. I bought those and a very nice Hibernia 1/2d. Speaking of Hibernia's, I have been chomping at the bit to see Syd's new book and since my roommate wouldn't be in until Friday I was really looking forward to picking my copy up from Charlie Davis and curling up with it that night – but that was not to be. I did see Charlie there but by the time I went over to pick it up he had gone...BUMMER! I hustled around the rest of the bourse and found two more nice counterfeit British halfpence which I put on hold. I didn't see much more that I wanted, although I must say I really didn't scrutinize everyone's cases since I was already behind several grand and that was weighing heavily on my mind since I also new I still had the auction to contend with and the Americana Sale right around the corner, too. Ah the auction! I remembered I had all the auction lot viewing boxes in my hotel room, which I had stored for the club in my garage since last C4 and a box of Mike's Frisbees to be delivered to Chris. The bourse was getting pretty thin so I went up, called Chris and made plans to deliver the goods and help out with the auction set-up in his room, ya right, when I got up there I dropped the boxes and started lot viewing myself :-). I looked over all the NJ's. They all mostly belonged to an old friend and even though I had seen most all before I still needed another look. There were three varieties in the sale that I didn't yet have. The 11-h, but I figured I waited this long so I might wait for one that fit my collecting goal better. The 13-J's, one I had passed on before and I thought the other might go too high, and the 27-j which I figured I could go for if I let the 11-h and 13-j's go. There were also a few with counterstamps and I also hoped to get one or two of those. Ok, so now I had my auction plans, so it was back down to my room to play with some of my newps and off to bed, still not drinking so I figured it was best not to wander. But I did run into Johnny K. so we went back to my room and I got to go over some of his lot descriptions of Mike's best counterfeits; he had the texts he wrote for the catalog and I had the images of Mike's coins on my laptop. It was a long and great day.

I'll write about Friday tomorrow.

P.S.: I guess I forgot that right after the bourse closed I went back to my room to chill out for a bit before the C4 reception. I got to the reception a bit late but caught the second round of finger foods and as always they were great, and so were the conversations. So much goes on it is hard to remember everything!

FRIDAY

Ok, Friday. Friday was much less hectic for me. I got up early! Had a few cups of coffee in my room, then meandered down stairs to the bourse. Since I bought that collection of ctft Bust Half's for me, I figured I'd just give the floor a quick pass to see any dealers who didn't make dealer set up on Thursday. Luckily I didn't find much more...whew!

This time I brought a box of books and auction catalogs down with me. My tablemate saw I had a mint 1995 Griffie and wanted it, an instant sale! (In spirit only though because I couldn't bring myself to take money from an old friend for a C4 catalog, but I probably should have asked him if it was for resale!) I did "buy" some "foreign" coins from him and even managed to turn Oliver into a coin dealer too when I brought him over to buy "foreign" coins too. I got \$75 face in US quarters and dimes for \$70 and Oliver got about \$119 Canadian for \$100. Ok, we were well on our way trading now!

I went to see Leo to pay for and pick up the MANY lots I won from our library auction (I bid something on every lot so the club would have a sellout and almost couldn't believe I won so many! thank God Leo was coming to C4 or the postage would have hurt ;-). I instantly flipped the two-volume set in Spanish to my friend Phil M. I actually already had a set and just wanted to buy Mike's set for myself. So I got a new set with a great pedigree and now Phil does too, mine. I plan to swap out many other copies from my library with Mike's, I was very happy!

While I had Oliver over I finally managed to get a cast counterfeit 1/2d into his collection, it took me so long I made a gift of it to him, nice to see you again Oliver, maybe some day we'll actually have time to chat?

I left my wares with my tablemate and delivered other want list items I had. A Taylor for Tom Rinaldo, Fords to BC, stuff for Skalbe, etc. then I rushed over to Charlie Davis's table to secure my copy of Syd's Hibernia book. I felt quite honored when Syd asked me to sign his copy! He was having all the people he gave credits to in the book sign his copy to be leather bound. Thanks Syd! And thanks for writing a little something in my copy. I have wanted a book on this series for quite a while, and what a book it is! If I ever get around to publishing a book I hope you'll let me copy some of your format.

By now my old friend and roommate Dave Cornell showed up. We went for a quick lunch downstairs with Mike W. and Dave graciously picked up the tab – thanks Dave!

Back to my table where many friends (and a few new faces) came by and picked up a few coins and related items for their collections, thanks guys.

I was to show action lots, but C4 conventions are unusual in that when I went over to relieve someone, nobody wanted leave as they were all having too much fun showing lots and chatting, and since I did have a table to man I didn't push it ;-)

Around six I went downstairs to catch some of the NJ symposium and have a snack; once again we outdid ourselves with delicious finger foods. I hung around for a few more of the educational events then went back to my room to talk coins with Johnny K. I figured I'd take a nap until CVM called me for the usual poker game but the call never came so I never got out of bed, an early night for a change, hey maybe I'll make the C4 meeting in the morning? I have the dubious reputation of making every single C4 convention and even made the meetings before C4 was created where we tried to figure out if such a club would fly, but on the same hand I haven't made a single C4 meeting! I just wasn't an early morning kind of guy.

I'll try and remember what went on Saturday in my next installment...

SATURDAY

Ok, here is my next installment of my 2007 C4 experience diary (again from memory so I apologize if I forgot anything good that involved you so please speak up).

Saturday was to be full of great surprises. I again got up early and quietly prepped for the show so as not to wake my roommate, had a few cups of coffee as usual and headed for my first C4 meeting; that's right, I was gonna finally make one and see what happens at these things. I dropped more stuff off at my table and pulled the covers back. I got to the meeting a little late but it didn't matter as the officers had run overtime at their board meeting in the restaurant; they've done this before, and were probably aware that there was NO COFFEE available at the regular guy meeting, so we waited and chatted amongst ourselves. Now I was beginning to understand/remember why I didn't bother getting up early to attend these things, I was getting flashbacks of earlier EAC meetings I used to attend but at least they were changed to later times. Ok, it was alright but it was early and I don't even remember much of what went down so I'll leave reporting of that to someone else.

When it was over I went back to my room for a smoke and to check on my

roommate. He was up and we decided to go across the street for some real coffee, Dunkin Doughnuts! I ran into a very old non-numismatic friend; he's retired now and spends time working part-time across the street at the Wang Theater. It was great to see him! I got two large ice coffees and headed back to my room where I put the partially drunk coffee on the balcony to keep cool. I also called my wife to tell her there were not many spouses around but that my tablemate David Paling wanted to go to lunch in Chinatown with her -- she loves Dave so all was well. Then I grabbed the box I put together for our 1:00-3:00pm Colonial Happening pertaining to cut Mass silver. My roommate Dave was nice enough to offer to man my table while I was gone and told me he'd just call my cell with any questions. I had my laptop, camera, copy stand, scale etc, etc. It was well attended and we had a lot of fun. I wish I brought an attendance pad but hey, I'm new to this too. From memory there were, among others, in attendance...Ray Williams, Syd Martin, Jeff Lipski, Dan Freidus, Jeff Hall, Geoff Stevens, Bobby Martin and of course Eric Hildebrandt and me. There were others I know and apologize for going a bit blank here. It appeared Eric was weighing the pieces (literally pieces in some cases ;-)) taking very detailed notes and I was shooting pictures. There were so many pieces of Mass Silver, Dan helped out with the photographs of Mass Silver, too. Thanks Dan! We went right to 3 o'clock then dispersed. I will hook up with Eric sometime in the near future to compare notes add the images and write a short paper for the C4 newsletter.

I went back to my room to put my supplies back, have a smoke and grab that other iced coffee I left on the balcony to keep cool...it was frozen solid! Boston is funny like that ;-).

Back to my table to see if I could sell enough coins and books to cover that Bust Half collection or at least a down payment. I took a break from my table to go check out the RR-29 for my roommate's collection. I reported back that it was lovely and all the missing pieces fit and it was totally natural. Later that night he would be the successful bidder at the auction. Great piece Dave! But unfortunately for me that meant he wasn't going to spend that dough on purchases he had me put aside in case he didn't win. Oh well, I'm sure he'll be happier with his first loves, the Vermont's.

Another good thing happened while I was over that corner. A good dealer friend told me he was about to have a FIRE SALE, and was looking for me -- that he had too many colonials in stock, most of which he bought from me (?). This excited me because we had many good dealings in the past and because I knew he was also collecting New Jersey's, more then casually -- I had sold him many nice pieces as I made upgrades so I was looking forward to getting some back. WRONG, when I looked though his inventory I could only find one NJ with my pedigree on it, and I don't even think he got that piece from me, even though it was a lovely M.37-f.

Right about then you could have knocked me over with a feather as right on top of one pile staring back at me was a M.13-J!!! not only didn't I have that variety, I was also agonizing over which piece I might go for in the auction that night as there were two, neither of which really fit my collection but at 87 different varieties I figured I'd better start lowering my standards if I really wanted to get to 90 and this one fit perfectly, a nice attractive VF on a slightly better than average flan...I had to have it! The wheels started turning, no spinning! I put it and the 37-f aside and told him I'd be right back. As I ran back to my table a plan was developing, I had in one of my trays a good group of choice ½ cents and hey, this guy deals much more in early US than Colonials, especially half and large cents. So I just grabbed the whole tray and headed back. Not only did he have it priced high (but fair) but also had some convoluted sorry about many other collectors who wanted it (first problem) and visions of grandeur with regards to what the two in the auction would/might bring (second problem), read simply a ploy to keep the price lofty <G>. I've been around too. I offered to trade ALL my half cents for it. Failure. Negotiations were terrible as was my poker face. Back and forth, forth and back. And imagine this, while trying to conduct this trade another friend takes the 13-J and walks away with it and starts making "positive" comments about it. Oh no. He finally brings it back after I tried to gently tell him negotiations were in process. He then comments to the dealer something like "hey, Clem put that coin in HIS pile", oh no...again. What else is gonna happen (I shouldn't have asked) right then my wife comes out of nowhere and has a question, "I see a coin I just love"...on and on why she loves it, so I say buy it, I'll buy it for you, "no you don't understand, I want to buy it for myself but am I getting the right price?" how much it is? "\$15. Go get it I'll buy it for you, "NO" I just want to know if the price is fair" (think man, she doesn't even have it with her) did the seller see your dealers badge, "yes" what was it marked? "\$19", well then, OK you got the right price honey -- maybe you should go buy it before it's gone ;-) and off she went...WHEW. DEAL DONE! My coin, OVER (yes for those of you actually reading these I not only have no money but still owe the several thousand for the Bust collection, all of which had to be divulged and worked into the deal) ok, I get the coin "on time" but I still gotta give him ALL my choice half cents in trade for his "undesirable" Colonials. Also not a problem as I took the choice 37-f and ALL his choice "unattributed" Woods Hibernia's...YAHOO! I think I buried this guy in inventory I didn't even want and he thinks the same, a coin deal was done and all were happy.

Ok, so now it's really a show, I'm now 5 figures in debt...hehe, and having a ball.

Back to my table, hey, maybe "I" can sell a coin, that'll help. So I resolved myself to sit put. Books were selling! Coins were selling!! YIPEE! I think I sold enough. Money is power, so now to renegotiate <G>. I go see the bust half dealer, the

guy I told I didn't know when I'd be able to pay. And told him I was about to pay him right then and there and asked if that gave him a warmer feeling, warm enough for a discount and he said yes! PAID. Then I figured I'd try the same with the 13-J guy, success! PAID so now I figured I could go chill back up in my room and reconsider my auction strategies.

When I got back to my room I took a closer look at my new 13-J and researched the snot out of it. I was happy. I also pulled out the BH collection I now owned "scott clear," now I'm even happier! I look over the auction catalog and like a gambler who was having a bad night then wins all his money back, I take a deep breath and tell myself stay happy and just let it go, save your "money" (none of which I really have again) for Mike and John's stuff in the American sale. I agree. So I slowly meander down to the sale and whew, I find out I already missed the early stuff I might have been tempted with. Although I also find out I missed all Mike's Frisbees and the fiasco that transpired delivering them ;-(I did mange one related piece from the sale. Lot 287, a Counterstamped NJ M.24-P which appeared to have a crude sun ctsp in the centers both obverse and reverse.

Since I'm still working on my personal style choice I avoided the after auction crowds and simply went back to my room to enjoy my new coins, books and memories and then made it another early night.

Usually there is not much to report for Sunday but I'll tackle that later...

SUNDAY

Ok, this is my final installment of my C4 diary for 2007, finally ;-)

Sunday is always quite, many have left, successful bidders hit the floor early for lot pickup and last goodbyes and one more quick look around. Ed Aleo lets the locals set up for free on Sundays and sometimes a ripe cherry drops and some of you are starting to figure that out and plan accordingly.

I was in no hurry since I live locally and needed to wait for my wife to get back from Sunday services to pick me up anyway. I got a late checkout but packed first and then went down to open my table. I picked up my one auction lot and a copy of the PR and said my goodbye to Bob.

I cleared up any open accounts and said my goodbyes and warned everyone

they'd be seeing me at the Americana sale if all went well. Back at my table I made a few last minute sales then packed up myself.

Check-out went smooth, I never went back to the desk ;-); then I carted my stuff down and outside with the help of one of the fellows helping to break down the show. I put my stuff outside, called and waited for Lynn. While I was hanging out Mike W. came by to chat and I was treated to chatting with his lovely friend Morgan, you just gotta love Morgan ;-). As they drove off Lynn pulled up.

Well that's 13 in a row and now I planned to go home and "play" with all my new stuff! And I'm still playing! Some books still haven't even been opened yet so it'll be Christmas here for a while longer!

Of course I'm babbling to Lynn all the way home like a kid who just walked out from camping in the candy store for a long weekend! As soon as I get through all this new stuff I'm gonna start planning for next year! I hope to see you all there happy and healthy again and meet more of you, plan early!

Your friend, Clem



RARE CONNECTICUT FOUND IN PCGS HOLDER

An extremely rare 1787 Connecticut copper, Miller 33.29-s.1, was recently discovered at Stack's Rare Coins. The piece was found in a PCGS slab. It was attributed by Andrew W. Pollock, III, with the identification confirmed by Frank Van Valen – both specialists at Stack's. The coin, pictured below, exhibits an obverse die state much earlier than when found in combination with either reverse Z.7 or gg.1. It is interesting that rare colonials do turn up, in slabs, unattributed as to specific die variety.



C4 CONVENTION PHOTOS



Tom makes a sale to Frank and to Dan while Chris, Stan, and Bob exuberantly look on.



Clem gets some advice about a potential purchase.



Roger Contemplates



Lot Viewing with Leo, Buell, and Geoff



NJ, CO, CA, and Canada Meet!



Ray mans the C4 Table

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



Lou Jordan Presentation



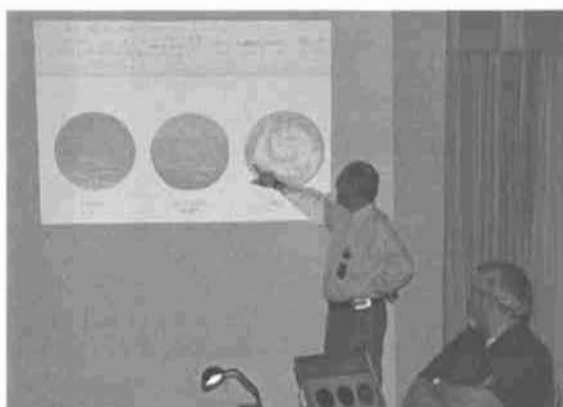
Leo Shane Presentation



Oliver Hoover Presentation



Tim Martin Presentation



The NJ Symposium (Jack and Ray lead)



The cut Massachusetts silver Happening



The Connecticut 4-L Happening
(Dan & Jeff weigh and measure)

SOME CANDID SHOTS OF THE CONVENTION



The Colonial Coin Collector "Tribe" begins to gather on Thursday evening.



Chris and Bob at 1am – getting ready for the auction.



Saturday morning C4 business meeting.



Friday's chow line (and great the food was too!).

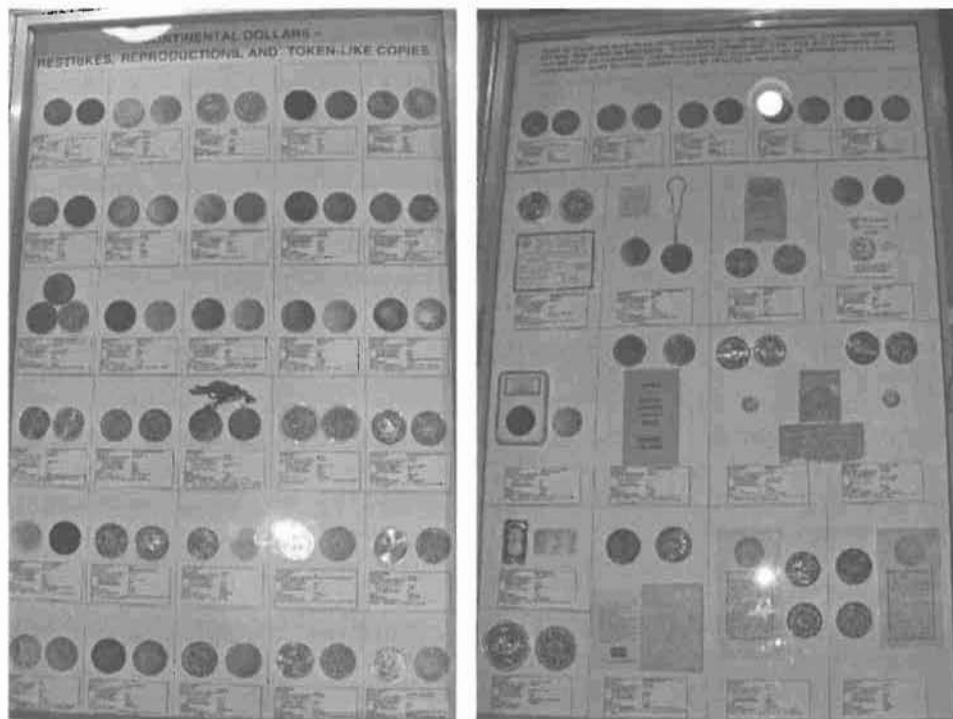


Jeff and Ray get ready for some serious study.

DISPLAYS



Display of tokens issued in honor of William Pitt, including one of the famous tax stamps so infuriating to the Colonists. Display by Dave Menchell (items from his collection and that of Roger Siboni)



Syd Martin's display of fifty different Continental Dollar restrikes, reproductions, and token-like copies from his collection.

C4 General Membership Meeting December 1, 2007 — Boston

C4 President Ray Williams opened the meeting at about 8:30 AM with a round of brief introductions and collecting interests of those in attendance; 33 members signed in but more were present as the meeting progressed. The Club Recording Secretary, Frank Steimle, noted that the minutes of the last, 2006, annual meeting were published in the Winter 2006 (Vol. 14 #4) issue of the C4 Newsletter but he briefly reviewed the highlights of those minutes, noting that the membership request for amended Treasurers report to cover a full year was satisfied in the Spring 2007 issue of the C4 Newsletter. These minutes were accepted as published by the attending members.

The Club Treasurer, Dr. Roger Moore, handed out a spread sheet for the Club's income, expenses and assets for the last 3 years. It was noted that at the Trustee meeting earlier that morning it was suggested that life membership might cost 20 times annual membership dues. This was questioned from the floor and Dennis Wierzba and Roger Moore said they would investigate how the life membership fee could be better calculated but a floor vote approved the option to modify the adult life membership fee. Dennis noted that the costs to the Club for renting the meeting room and snacks have risen significantly. A request from the floor asked that the total number of members in the Club be included in the Treasurer's Report. This was agreed to and will be in the Club's final 2007 financial summary to be published again in the next spring issue of the C4 Newsletter. The Report, with noted amendments and one typo correction, was approved.

Syd Martin presented the Publication Committee report. He noted the editors work diligently to get quality products out in the Club's behalf. He noted that the newest Club publication was his tome on Wood's Hibernia Coinage, which was available from Charlie Davis, as per the Club's recent publication distribution agreement with Charlie. This volume cost the Club \$10,000 and is available for \$85. It was noted that there was strong interest in it on both sides of the Atlantic. Syd and Lou Jordan are working a guide to those who have information to share but do not know how to get it in a publishable form. A motion was put forth to recognize the efforts of the editors and publication committee as they are dealing with a number of potential or pending Club publications. These currently include Brian Danforth's work on Pre-Confederation Copper Coinage, Syd Martin's continued interest in William Wood and his Rosa American coinage, Lou Jordan's research on Lord Baltimore coinage, Roger Siboni and Jack Howes work on NJ coppers, John Griffie's manuscript on St. Patrick coinage will be continued by Stan Stephens. The Rob Retz Fugio manuscript has been placed in the hands of Jeff Rock by the family and hopefully he will bring it to print. It was also noted that Dave Bowers pending introductory book on "Colonials" involved many Club members in the preparation, even though it will not be a direct Club product. Oliver Hoover later noted that the ANS COAC conference proceedings publication focused on St. Patrick coinage, attended by many C4 members, is still in process, but nearing completion.

Leo Shane, the Club's librarian, gave a summary of retrieving the Mike Ringo library, graciously donated to the Club by Mike's family. The library kept 150 of 300 items from Mike's collection while duplicate books and non-colonial books are to be auctioned to club members to raise funds for needed books. All of Mike's books in the C4 Library are referenced to him inside the front cover.

Syd Martin returned to the floor as C4 Newsletter editor and noted the change in Newsletter format seemed to be generally well received. He still needs more membership input to the Newsletter and wanted everyone to remember a Newsletter can be very informal

and letters and short observation notes are always welcome. Anyone unsure of their writing ability, or what text or photographic formats we can accept, will get ready guidance from our excellent editorial group. Advertisements are acceptable in the Newsletter with some size limitations and any interested parties should contact Syd. The question of putting the Newsletter series on a CD in a searchable format was mentioned, but the work involved for digitizing earlier issues will be a problem that requires a dedicated volunteer. Leo Shane noted that the Smithsonian Institute has requested to receive copies of the Club's Newsletter.

Ray Williams mentioned progress on getting a marker placed in Boston at the location where the Hull mint operated striking the famous MA silver coinage. Interest was expressed by the ANS and the Bostonian Society in supporting this action. The site is currently under a department store.

Ray informed the membership that C4N Associate Editor Roger Siboni was recently elected to the position of American Numismatic Society president, and C4N Editor Syd Martin was heading the ANS Finance Committee.

Ray noted that 2008 is a Club election year and anyone who wants to become more involved in club governance should consider running for a post.

He mentioned that there was a motion at the C4 Board Meeting to move the general club meeting to Sunday morning, as per many similar numismatic organizations. A motion to this effect was put forth but was NOT supported by attending members by a 13 to 8 show of hands vote.

Tim Martin, who has taken on the task of reviewing and drafting an update to the Club's bylaws, noted that the Trustees are obligated to finish redrafting the bylaws by this spring. This proposed revision will be published in the Newsletter for general membership review for a possible vote at the summer ANA meeting in Baltimore, which is widely attended by C4 members.

On a final note, Dennis Wierzba, our Immediate Past President, was pleased to see the Club growing nicely, especially our convention attendance. He said many members' concerns about the C4 Convention/Bay State show being inconveniently between Thanksgiving and Christmas seemed to have been heard since next year's convention will be scheduled before Thanksgiving: November 14-16.

Ray adjourned the meeting at 9:55 just in time to get back to the show daily opening.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Steimle
C4 Recording Secretary

PDVs – A REMINDER OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE

(Ray Williams)

Pictured below are state coppers that are examples of what colonial collectors refer to as “Painted Die Varieties” (PDVs). I find these coins fascinating and feel they have an added desirability. My wife suggested to me that if the PDV coins are more desirable, why not write the varieties on all of my coins... I explained to her that I would be defacing the coins while collectors from 100 years ago would be giving the coin “character”. She didn’t fully comprehend and wondered if I wouldn’t be adding “character” for collectors a hundred years from now...

Generally PDV coins have the die variety on the obverse, but some are known inked on the reverse and/or the edge. The ink used is usually white, but I have seen black and brown colors used too.

One of the coins pictured has a “71” painted on it. I bought the coin because I figured it was a museum control number, or some similar use. When I got home from the C4 Convention, I did some more studying and determined that what I saw was not a “71” but rather a “7 L”. Before Dr. Edward Maris wrote his epic work on NJ Coppers, the only attribution system for NJ Coppers was that developed by Sylvester Crosby in his 1875 *Early Coins of America*. How excited I was to make this discovery!

There is currently a PDV study in progress by Robert Martin and Neil Rothschild. Through comparison of inks, handwriting, known provenance, plated auction appearances, etc..., hopefully much will be learned about the collectors & collections of the late 1800s and early 1900s. This is an important study and if you should own any coins having painted attributions, round or square collector cards, or old envelopes, please consider contributing to their work by contacting Neil at nrothschild@nmctech.com



IMPERFECT COLONIAL COINS IN OUR COLLECTIONS

(Leo Shane)

During the educational session, at the convention in Boston last month, I conducted a survey regarding coins we have in our collections that are less than perfect. Sure we all want coins with:

- Strong Even Strike Showing All Devices,
- Excellent Natural Chocolate Color,
- No Spotting, Stains or Verdigris,
- Smooth Hard Surfaces, No Porosity, and
- No Scratches, Rim Bruises or Other Damage.

The reality is that many of our coins do not fully reach these goals. They are still desirable but of course not at the same price as coins who fully match up to the ideal.

The purpose of the survey was to have those who participated give an idea of how “imperfections” (both pre strike and post strike) affected the net grade or value they placed on a coin. I asked everyone in attendance to grade the coin ignoring the imperfection and then give a second “value” grade including the imperfection. I did not ask for value in terms of dollars since this is a very personal subject.

The survey was anonymous and I received 29 useable surveys at the convention. I am inviting anyone who was not able participate at the convention to do so now. The following is the survey form used and photos of the coins presented at the session. Also under each photo are some comments I made verbally during the session. The form and photos are also on the club website www.colonialcoins.org

I will publish the results of the surveys I received at the convention and any I receive through email by 1 April, in the Spring 2008 *C4 Newsletter*. To participate, please fill out the form and mail it to me at Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com. Don't forget to indicate which type of collector/dealer you are and feel free to add any comments that you feel are appropriate. No names will be identified or given out in any form. The results will be in summary form only.

I'm looking forward to sharing with you the results of this fun and informative survey. Thanks to all who participate.

Photo Credits: Fugio 11-A by Dave Palmer; all other photos by Neil Rothschild.

Imperfect Colonial Coins in our Collections p.1

Leo Shane

(circle your answers)

Type of Colonial Collector: Beginner Experienced Advanced Dealer

1787 CT ML 41-ii DBL R-4, Very Weak Date

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No
 Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45
 Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF
 Comments: _____

1787 NJ MA. 46-e R-1, Die Bulge / Clash Marks

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No
 Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45
 Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF
 Comments: _____

1787 CT ML.31.1-r.4 R-2, Detached Lamination

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No
 Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45
 Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF
 Comments: _____

1787 CT ML. 32.5-aa R-4, Natural Planchet Flaws

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No
 Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45
 Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF
 Comments: _____

1786 VT RY-9 R-4, Natural Planchet Flaws (usual)

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No
 Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45
 Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF
 Comments: _____

Imperfect Colonial Coins in our Collections p.2

Leo Shane

(circle your answers)

1788 CT MI. 10-C R-5, "Cleaned"

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No

Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45

Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF

Comments: _____

1787 Fugio K.19-Z.1 R-5, Dark & Porous

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No

Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45

Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF

Comments: _____

1788 VT RY-18 R-4, Reverse Scratches

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No

Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45

Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF

Comments: _____

1787 NJ MA. 55-m R-4, Rim Bruise / Damage

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No

Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45

Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF

Comments: _____

1787 Fugio K.11-A R-6, "Holed"

Would you have this coin in your collection? Yes No

Sharpness Grade: G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF XF45

Value (with problem): G G4 VG VG10 F F15 VF VF30 XF

Comments: _____

Thank You for Participating



1787 CT M.44-ii DBL (R4)
AUCTOPI Obverse, ET IIB Reverse
Very Weak Date on Reverse
NOTES: Excelent Chocolate Color, Smooth Surfaces



1787 NJ M.46-e (R1)
Horse Facing Right Obverse, Small Planchet
Die Bulge, Heavy Clash Marks on Obverse
NOTES: Nice Brown Color, Smooth Surfaces



1787 CT M.31.1-r.4 (R2)

Draped Bust Left Obverse

Soft Strike 7-10:00 Obverse; Detached Lamination on Reverse

NOTES: Excellent Chocolate Color; Smooth Surfaces



1787 CT M.32.5-aa (R4)

Draped Bust Left Obverse, FNDE Reverse

Natural Planchet Flaws – Obverse and Reverse

NOTES: Excellent Brown Color; Smooth Surfaces



1786 VT RY-9 (R4)

Baby Head Obverse

Natural Planchet Flaws (Usual for the Variety)

NOTES: Nice medium Brown Color; Smooth Surfaces



1788 CT M.10-C (R5)

Mailed Bust Right Obverse; Overstruck on a Nova Constellatio
"Cleaned" and Now Retoning

NOTES: Obv – Light Brown, Mostly Retoned Color.

Rev – Not at the Same Stage of Retoning



1787 Fugio K.19-Z.q (R5)
Pointed Rays Obverse; Raised Rim, States United
Dark and Uniformly Porous
NOTES: Dark, Almost Black Color; Uniformly Porous Surfaces



1788 VT RY-18 (R4)
Mailed Bust Right; Struck Over an Irish Halfpence
Die Failure on Obverse; 2 Scratches on Reverse
NOTES: Excellent Medium Brown Color; Smooth and Hard Surfaces



1787 NJ M.55-m (R4)

Horse Facing Right Obverse; "U over S" Reverse

Rim Bruise at 5:00 and 11:00 on Obverse

NOTES: Medium Brown Color with Lighter Highlights; Smooth Surfaces
Representative Rim Damage Shown



1787 Fugio K.11-A (R6)

Pointed Rays Obverse; United Above/States Below Reverse

Holed

NOTES: Excellent Light Chocolate Color; Smooth and Hard Surfaces

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By unanimous consent of the Board, a Lifetime Achievement Award was voted for Robert (Bob) Vlack, noted colonial specialist, author, collector, and friend. In addition to a Lifetime Membership in C4, Bob was presented with a copy of his seminal work *Early American Coins*, authored in 1965. The Club was able to locate a mint condition copy – which was then signed by all members of C4 present at the convention. Due to health reasons, Bob was unable to attend the Convention to receive the award, but was represented by his daughter, Cheryl Vlack Wheeler. [And might we add what a delightful representative she was!]

Ray Williams, President, presented the autographed book to Cheryl on Friday 30 November at 7:00pm during the general C4 meeting. Following the presentation, Cheryl asked to address the C4 Membership, and to a rousing round of applause, did so:

My father sends his regrets that he cannot be here in person to accept this award. My Dad is presently living in Florida and due to a recent health issue; he is currently unable to travel. I'm pleased to accept this award on his behalf. He asked me to read this to you:

First and foremost, let me say that I have a lot to be thankful for in my life. I am truly honored to be the recipient of this Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of what I have accomplished, first as a collector since 1950; and later branching out as a dealer; then still further into numismatic research.

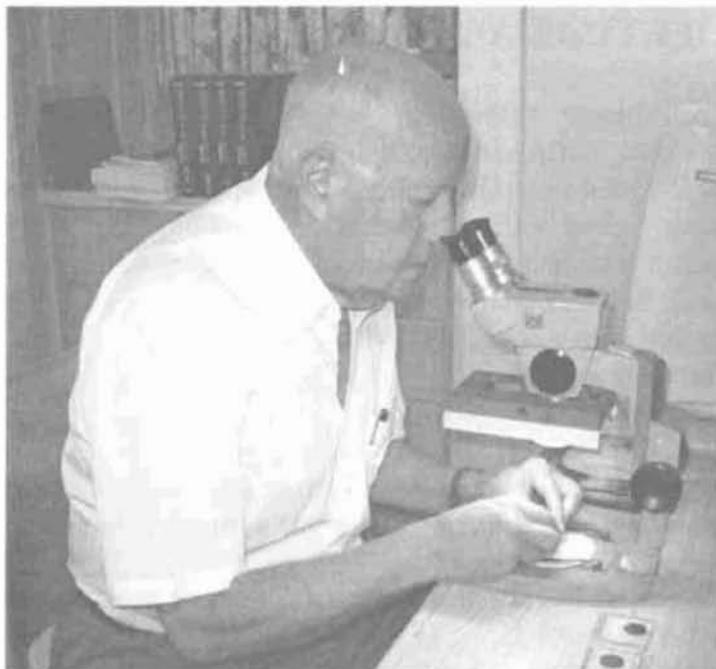
It's been a rewarding journey with many unexpected turns along the way. For example, as far back as 1971 I started collecting data on French Billon coinage of the Americas. After many years of research, I was able to gather enough data to publish a book on the subject. For those efforts, I was awarded the Fred Bowman Literary Award from the Canadian Numismatic Research Society.

But undoubtedly, the most rewarding part of my journey is the people I've met along the way! I've attended this show in Boston for almost 35 years. I certainly value and appreciate the many friendships that I've made here in Boston and hope to be back again with all of you in the future.

In closing, I would like to thank Ray Williams and his staff for all they have done for me during my many years in Boston.

Robert A. Vlack

Bob: you deserve it!



A quintessential photo of Bob, taken from the frontispiece of his acclaimed book
“An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas.”



Ray presents Cheryl with a copy of her father's 1965 opus – signed by all C4
members present.

PRICES REALIZED AT THE C4 AUCTION (1 December 2007)

Total Bids \$217,895

Lots listed at \$0 were either withdrawn or repurchased by the consignor.

2007 C-4

01-Dec-07

Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
1	4,000	44	160	87	130	130	110	173	120	216	35	259	80
2	0	45	1,300	88	220	131	70	174	0	217	150	260	110
3	0	46	185	89	250	132	40	175	2,200	218	170	261	80
4	75	47	100	90	800	133	750	176	175	219	130	262	220
5	5	48	80	91	200	134	280	177	40	220	110	263	200
6	800	49	800	92	275	135	170	178	110	221	100	264	150
7	650	50	6,500	93	30	136	135	179	210	222	90	265	90
8	850	51	800	94	0	137	190	180	150	223	90	266	200
9	300	52	2,200	95	150	138	140	181	40	224	70	267	150
10	1,900	53	1,600	96	550	139	185	182	190	225	70	268	180
11	425	54	260	97	130	140	50	183	160	226	70	269	140
12	275	55	1,000	98	150	141	40	184	170	227	70	270	120
13	500	56	1,500	99	80	142	110	185	210	228	1,100	271	230
14	55	57	2,600	100	600	143	80	186	180	229	475	272	0
15	25	58	1,800	101	110	144	60	187	85	230	180	273	0
16	120	59	4,500	102	70	145	30	188	0	231	0	274	220
17	1,300	60	1,100	103	4,250	146	100	189	110	232	400	275	325
18	35	61	110	104	425	147	575	190	210	233	140	276	260
19	250	62	40	105	1,100	148	80	191	50	234	0	277	220
20	80	63	0	106	130	149	50	192	0	235	90	278	210
21	70	64	650	107	70	150	320	193	60	236	230	279	260
22	75	65	425	108	110	151	180	194	50	237	120	280	400
23	170	66	160	109	350	152	140	195	260	238	0	281	600
24	250	67	350	110	0	153	200	196	260	239	250	282	375
25	120	68	700	111	1,500	154	70	197	110	240	70	283	0
26	130	69	0	112	375	155	240	198	180	241	500	284	0
27	60	70	160	113	0	156	80	199	200	242	2,200	285	400
28	80	71	150	114	325	157	60	200	475	243	290	286	50
29	2,200	72	425	115	240	158	70	201	0	244	260	287	110
30	875	73	160	116	550	159	2,200	202	160	245	425	288	1,100
31	140	74	150	117	80	160	420	203	190	246	550	289	6,750
32	1,400	75	210	118	100	161	50	204	260	247	140	290	0
33	800	76	220	119	70	162	60	205	70	248	600	291	400
34	950	77	60	120	425	163	110	206	40	249	240	292	270
35	260	78	1,200	121	60	164	230	207	550	250	325	293	0
36	700	79	2,750	122	110	165	80	208	200	251	500	294	325
37	1,600	80	1,600	123	0	166	210	209	220	252	650	295	130
38	0	81	125	124	220	167	0	210	40	253	500	296	80
39	950	82	800	125	150	168	50	211	40	254	2,800	297	425
40	60	83	150	126	40	169	50	212	120	255	0	298	200
41	500	84	160	127	130	170	130	213	120	256	220	299	120
42	3,000	85	220	128	110	171	350	214	500	257	110	300	325
43	550	86	150	129	375	172	120	215	160	258	600	301	270

Saturday, December

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2007 C-4

01-Dec-07

Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
302	300	347	1,500	392	80	437	220	482	300				
303	120	348	160	393	0	438	1,200	483	110				
304	0	349	130	394	120	439	1,000	484	180				
305	300	350	400	395	75	440	150	485	200				
306	90	351	0	396	750	441	300	486	100				
307	90	352	150	397	1,600	442	1,200	487	180				
308	80	353	80	398	0	443	400	488	110				
309	220	354	1,800	399	850	444	1,200	489	20				
310	80	355	400	400	0	445	130	490	600				
311	40	356	400	401	350	446	700	491	135				
312	70	357	2,200	402	190	447	350	492	365				
313	120	358	650	403	500	448	1,000	493	210				
314	120	359	350	404	425	449	4,000	494	225				
315	60	360	1,300	405	130	450	0	495	0				
316	180	361	140	406	200	451	800	496	425				
317	130	362	550	407	150	452	210	497	70				
318	1,550	363	2,500	408	55	453	650	498	10				
319	0	364	375	409	0	454	350	499	80				
320	500	365	0	410	2,500	455	0	500	140				
321	70	366	90	411	800	456	850	501	1,600				
322	110	367	1,000	412	550	457	100	502	80				
323	290	368	350	413	425	458	160	503	50				
324	180	369	0	414	110	459	1,000	504	15				
325	50	370	80	415	1,700	460	290	505	5				
326	150	371	750	416	350	461	0	506	5				
327	270	372	400	417	210	462	0	507	60				
328	350	373	600	418	425	463	500	508	20				
329	120	374	375	419	50	464	0	509	130				
330	280	375	0	420	1,700	465	350	510	10				
331	0	376	70	421	140	466	240	511	90				
332	60	377	30	422	90	467	190	512	45				
333	750	378	40	423	160	468	1,700	513	60				
334	650	379	0	424	0	469	375	514	20				
335	1,900	380	210	425	300	470	15	515	20				
336	700	381	260	426	0	471	190	516	110				
337	120	382	230	427	1,500	472	210	517	600				
338	60	383	150	428	0	473	160	518	25				
339	50	384	110	429	800	474	325	519	15				
340	10	385	0	430	170	475	270	520	220				
341	10,000	386	375	431	70	476	70						
342	1,800	387	400	432	240	477	250						
343	120	388	525	433	0	478	200						
344	50	389	0	434	100	479	1,600						
345	400	390	120	435	120	480	110						
346	110	391	80	436	325	481	450						

Saturday, December

Page 2 of 2

REPORT OF NEW FUGIO DISCOVERY

Last fall, a completely new variety of Fugio was discovered at Stack's Rare Coins (www.stacks.com). With permission, the following is taken from the catalogue of their Americana Sale, 15 January 2008, during which this discovery piece was sold for \$109,250 (including buyer's commission).

"Description: 1787 Fugio cent. Newman 13-JJ. Unique. Pointed Rays, UNITED STATES. Fine-15.

"Dies oriented medal turn. 167.9 grains. Smooth, medium brown surfaces are quite glossy on both sides. Some old circulation marks in the obverse fields have softened with wear, although we note a small mark or planchet flaw to upper left of VI and a minuscule verdigris spot within the gnomon's curve. The reverse is relatively flaw-free, but we note a slight weakness of strike in the rings from the 12:00 to 4:00 positions that reveals some of the natural roughness of the planchet's original surface. Some yellow, glue-like residue fills the AT of STATES and connects the label to the adjacent ring and can be expertly removed by a future owner. Obverse a bit off-center towards 12:00, making the sun tight to the rim and revealing more extensive denticulation at the 6:00 position; the reverse is ever so slight off-center to the 3:00 position, with full rims and showing elongated denticles from the 8:00 to 10:00 positions.

"The present specimen represents the discovery of a new die variety featuring the combination of a known obverse (13) with a totally new reverse die (JJ). In the process of attributing this coin, a positive match was made to Newman's obverse 13. All reverses (N, R, X and KK) known mated with that obverse are of the STATES UNITED type, but this coin's reverse is clearly the UNITED STATES type. A search for a known UNITED STATES reverse die turned up fruitless, as the position of the central legend WE ARE ONE bears unmistakable differences to that of any of the prior known UNITED STATES Fugio reverses. This new reverse has been named "JJ" by Eric Newman. Both the right foot of the W and the left base of the E in WE gently touch the top of the R in ARE. The right base of the E in WE nearly touches the top of the upright of the E in ARE, and the central crossbar of this E is connected to its upper crossbar by a small chip or break. The A in ARE furthermore, displays an unusually long left base. No major breaks or impairments to the die are visible on this well circulated specimen.

"Although a significant number of totally new Fugio cent varieties have been discovered since the publication of Eric Newman's 1952 "Varieties of the FUGIO Cent" in Coin Collectors Journal issue #144, only about half of them have been from dies unknown to Newman in 1952. Most of these discoveries of new dies have been reverses, so it comes as no surprise that the present discovery also incorporates a new reverse, rather than a new obverse. Presently unique -- only time will tell if others will be found. Here is a coin destined for an advanced collection of Fugio cents by die variety or for a collection of unique early American coins.

“Discovered by Scott Mitchell of our staff in a small consignment of U.S. Colonial Coins from a Midwestern collector; earlier from New Netherlands Coin Co. Included is the firm's original 2X2 paper envelope rubber-stamped "231" and with handwritten "Fugio cent" on the front and the firm's 95 Fifth Avenue address printed on the back flap. New Netherlands was at this address until 1946. An exhaustive search by noted numismatic bibliophile P. Scott Rubin in his complete set of New Netherlands catalogues did not find a Fugio cent appearing as lot 231 in any regular New Netherlands sale, so it was Mr. Rubin's suggestion that the "231" was some sort of inventory number and not an auction lot number. Special thanks to John Kraljevich, Eric Newman, and Tony Terranova for their assistance with this lot.”



NEW FUGIO VARIETY 13-JJ – THE DISCOVERY PIECE

A Coin That Traveled Around the World

(Spencer Peck)

This is the story of a coin that traveled virtually around the world in a short four years. The story begins in Potosi, Bolivia, also known as the silver mountain by the Spanish. Peru and the Empire of the Incas was conquered by Pizarro beginning in 1531, with the Indians soon learning of the Spaniards craze for gold and silver. One Inca, while chasing a deer up a mountain, lost his footing and grabbed a bush to stop his fall. The bush pulled out of the ground and around its roots he saw crystals of almost pure silver. This he would take into town from time to time to trade. After some time the Spaniards became suspicious of his new found source of wealth and, being threatened with torture, he revealed the location. This was in 1545.

Potosi is located some 13,000 feet above sea level in the south central Andes Mountains. By 1547 Charles V of Spain christened Potosi as the "Villa Imperial" in honor of its wealth. The "Rich Hill" loomed some 2,600 feet above the town. Everything came and left the town via llama or mule pack trains. In 1549 it was reported that some 7,771 bars of silver (weighing between 65 and 80 pounds each) and representing the "King's Fifth" were shipped from Potosi. By the 1650's it was home to some 100,000 or more people, making it larger than most cities of Europe. Potosi boasted some 80 churches, 14 dance halls and 36 gambling houses along with some 700 professional gamblers and over 120 prostitutes plying their trade. Money, greed, riotous living and scheming were hallmarks of the town. As the intensity of the mining increased, costs rose. For example, the forests were soon denuded and firewood had to be transported some 30 miles to run the smelters. The Indian labor died off to be replaced by African negro slaves who had to be purchased. In this environment the incentive to cheat loomed large. Quality deteriorated noticeably in the early 1600's as the debasement of the coin and silver bars took hold.

The matter came to a head in 1648 when an assay in Spain revealed that some Potosi issues were up to half copper. In the shakeup that followed, the assayer at the time, Filipe Ramirez de Arellano, was executed. Some 80 people either working at the mint, or in the region, were charged, with beheadings and heavy fines assessed, including the mayor and silver brokers of the town. The existing coinage was officially devalued with a counter stamping operation taking place across the Spanish Empire. The design of the coinage was also changed from the Hapsburg Shield type to the "Pillars and Waves" design beginning in 1652. These coins were issued by the highly qualified and respected assayer Antonio de Ergueta (Assayer Initial "E"), who went on to work at Potosi for almost thirty years of continuous service. It is one of Ergueta's Transitional 8 Reales about which this story is written.

Having been struck in 1652, the coin would have made its way to Lima via pack train and thence up the coast to Panama. It would have crossed Panama by land to Porto Bello to be shipped to Havana. From Havana, it would subsequently be sent to Seville, Spain via the annual "Flota." From Spain the coin traveled to Holland, probably as payment for silks, spices, or even a ship. It was heard that it was loaded, in 1656, into

money chests stored in the hold of the *Vergulde Draecke*, a brand new Dutch East Indiaman. *Vergulde Draecke* is Dutch for "Gilded Dragon." The ship was bound for Batavia in what is today's Indonesia. The *Vergulde Draecke* sailed alone down the west coast of Africa to the Cape of Good Hope. From here it sailed due east, propelled by the heavy and steady winds of the "roaring forties," until the coast of Australia was sighted. This route was a closely guarded state secret of the Dutch at the time, as the normal route would have been to cut across the Indian Ocean with the ever present threat of being becalmed. Once the coast of Australia was sighted, the ship took a hard left and headed north for the Spice Islands of Batavia.

However, the trip was cut short as it slammed into a reef and sank at a place today called Green Head about twenty miles north of Perth. There she lay until the 1970's when a group of divers from Perth decided to search the reefs off Green Head for rock lobster. Once down they saw piles of bricks scattered across the reef and realized that they were from a wreck. They soon recovered this coin, among others, the majority of which are today impounded in the Western Australia Museum in Perth.

That would be the end of the story except for an additional discovery about ten years later. It seems that there is a road which runs along the coast in this area with the sand dunes of the great Australian desert a short way inland. It was along this road that a driver spotted a body lying face down on the dunes. When he stopped and went to investigate, he found the desiccated body of a man dressed in the sea boots and great-coat of a 16th century Dutch mariner. He had apparently survived the wreck, for in his hand was a bag of these coins. He took what he considered valuable, but died for lack of water.

References:

Henry Grunthal and Ernesto Sellshopp: *The Coinage of El Peru*. 1978.

William Bischoff (ed): *ANS COAC: The Coinage of El Peru*. 1988.

Frank Sedwick: *The Practical Book of Cobs*. 1990.

Sewall H. Menzel: *The Potosi Mint Scandal and Great Transition of 1652*. 1995.



The Subject of this Article

BOOK REVIEW

(Lou Jordan)

Sydney Martin, *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, C4 publications, 2007.

Sydney Martin's meticulously researched catalogue of the Hibernia coppers of William Wood is an awe-inspiring work. For the past century numismatists have primarily relied on Philip Nelson's 47-page pamphlet listing 20 varieties of Hibernia coppers; now we have a folio size 482-page tome detailing 57 varieties of farthings and 228 varieties of halfpence!

The book begins with a brief but well-documented chapter on the history of Wood's coinage in Ireland followed by an insightful analysis on the minting of the coins. Particularly useful is the illustrated discussion of various die deterioration problems such as cracks, rust, chips, cuds, clashing or lapping that can be identified from evidence on the coppers. Many authors discuss these problems but rarely, if ever, do they include a handy illustrated guide to assist the novice in correctly identifying and interpreting the telltale evidence on the coins.

These preliminary chapters are the background for the authoritative catalogue. This is where Syd is without equal. Syd acquired Bob Vlack's extensive collection of Hibernia coppers and his accompanying notes. Building on Vlack's unpublished analysis of some 253 varieties, Syd has taken the analysis of Hibernias to a higher level – to a total of 285 varieties. Vlack identified Hibernia coppers by obverse and reverse coin combinations, just as Crosby, Miller and others had done earlier with various colonial series. One problem with this approach is that a single die is sometimes identified by two different numbers, when it is used over different years. We all recall that the Constellatio Nova copper Crosby 1783, reverse C is the same die as Crosby 1785, reverse A; similarly Connecticut, Miller 1785, obverse 7.2 and 1786, obverse 4.2 represent two uses of the same die. Syd followed the more sophisticated taxonomy of Maris by numbering each unique die and then listing all the combinations using that die.

The catalogue is remarkable both in breadth and in depth; representing many years of detailed analysis based on meticulous documentation of countless specimens. The numerous dies are categorized into groups and subgroups based on similarities. Each of the two catalogue sections, one for farthings and another for halfpence, is introduced by an indispensable attribution guide and ingenious "quickfinder" table to assist the reader in expeditiously narrowing down the possibilities, from group to subgroup to individual die and variety.

In the main catalogue each die is described with a full page of diagnostics to aid in identification. This alone is a Herculean task, however, what makes the catalogue even more impressive is that it includes a brief analysis of diagnostics for die states from the initial strikes through the various degradations of the die over time. The description of the progressive die deterioration for each die required analysis of thousands of individual coppers. A listing of all variety combinations using that die follows the detailed die

analysis and, astoundingly, this information is presented in emission sequence order. Thus, we discover that reverse halfpenny die Fa.2 was initially married with obverse 4.45, then used with 4.57, followed by 4.87 and then once again joined with obverse 4.45 and thereafter combined consecutively with 4.71, 4.103 and 4.19. No major colonial coin catalogue has ever included such a detailed analysis of the emission sequence! The description of the progressive die deterioration for each die and the identification of the emission sequence for each pairing and subsequent re-pairing of dies required a comprehensive analysis of thousands of individual coppers. Additionally, the catalog is superbly illustrated with grayscale enlargements based on photographs by Neil Rothschild. In keeping with the meticulous work throughout this catalogue, Syd not only provided die variety numbers for the illustrations but also identified each illustration as being an initial, middle or late die state, often including multiple images of various states for a single die. Although some additions and corrections will be made to this 350-page catalogue, it will never be surpassed. This is the standard taxonomy for Hibernia coppers. Indeed, Martin numbers have already appeared in the Ira and Larry Goldberg Pre-Long Beach Sale of February 10-13, 2008, lot 908.

Following the catalogue is an important chapter on the American circulation of Hibernia coppers. The use of these coppers in America has long been questioned but here, for the first time, Syd has compiled a comprehensive list of 166 specimens recovered in America from archaeological sites and metal detector finds stretching from Maine to South Carolina. There is even a chart of selected early auction catalogues (1802-1925) demonstrating how and when coin dealers started including Hibernia coppers as part of the American colonial series.

Finally, one should not overlook the appendices. In addition to a very useful grading guide, a preliminary rarity listing and charts correlating previous Hibernia taxonomies with Martin numbers, there is a wonderful 32-page compilation of miscellaneous oddities related to Hibernia coppers. An array of fascinating material is presented in this section on special strikes, planchet errors, misstrikes, countermarks and even an illustration of an Hibernia halfpenny reused as a nail head. There are also discussions of electrotypes, modern copies by Peter Rosa and others and an interesting essay related to collector provenance derived from auction lot tickets and coin envelopes from famous collectors. This information took years to accumulate and is a fitting "dessert" for anyone who has feasted on the main catalogue. However, I must admit, the *miscellanea* was the first section of the book that I read.

This *opus* is a monumental achievement, far surpassing the guide for any other colonial series. It deserves a special place on the bookshelf of anyone with a serious interest in Irish, English or Colonial American coins.

If you would like this book in your library, you can order it for \$85 (shipping is \$5 in the US, \$15 to Canada, and \$27 to Europe) from: Charles Davis, P.O. Box 547, Wenham, MA 01984. Tel 978-468-2933; Fax 978-468-7893; numislit@aol.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

18 November 2007: Although I have been a member of C-4 since its inception, I have kept a low profile. Believe it or not, this is my first time writing something for possible inclusion in the C-4 journal. Recently (October 27, 2007) I attended the Coinfest show held at the Greenwich, CT convention center. I choose the shows I attend carefully primarily because my wife is not well and secondarily because I have 2 sons in law school and the tuition bills limit the funds I have available for hobby pursuits. I want to encourage more C-4 members to attend this brand new show. There were some prominent colonial dealers there (i.e. Dave Wnuck, Tony Terranova, John Kraljevich, as well as Julian Leidman, Harry Laibstein etc.) I found two extraordinary deals, Spencer Peck had a 1767 A French Colonies no counterstamp French colonial which is a scarce coin in Choice VF condition which I did purchase and Tom Hyland had an EF Pine Tree Sixpence with an authentication signed by Walter Breen, which if things were not tight for me financially, I would have purchased in a minute.

I am the type of collector that enjoys the history of these coins but is not particularly interested in the multiple die varieties of NJ or CT coppers. Sincerely, David Kass

20 November 2007: Hello all, I had a few minutes this evening to read my "new" old book -"Dye's Coin Encyclopedia" published in 1883. There were two quotes which I think might catch the fancy of a few NJ collectors, if not already known: First quote – ‘An act was passed June 4th, 1787, against the circulation in New Jersey of any coppers other than those made within the state, or ‘struck by the United States of America in Congress assembled...’ ” I will try to get a copy of this actual Act but the reason always touted for NJs holding their status in NJ was they were accepted for taxes and were of good weight. This puts a little different twist on this idea and one I do not remember hearing. Other coppers may not have been allowed in NJ!! Second quote – “The copper was brought to this place all ready for stamping and the coin taken away in kegs. The good housewives of the neighborhood used to buy the coin from the mint for paper money, a bureau drawer nearly full at all times, and pay them out for the ordinary small expenses of their families.” This in part helps answer a question of how some of the NJs got into circulation!! Where the kegs went to is the other big question. I love reading these old numismatic books!! Roger Moore

I joined C-4 this year, but was unable to be in Boston this weekend [29 November through 2 December 2007]. That the convention is central to the organization became obvious as threads on the colonial coins list server focused more and more on the anticipated proceedings as the event drew nearer. A flurry of last minute posts, then; radio silence. Was my connection down? A brief burst of intelligence came through.

alluding, as Carter to Carnarvon when first espying Tut's tomb, "wonderful things" were on to be seen. Nothing further. A check of ebay found nineteen century European issues filling the colonial spots. Back to the message board: zip. What was going on in Boston? The auction was over; a few inquires as to particular auction lots prices realized made clear that I was still in cyberspace, but where is the anticipated deluge of postings related to the actual proceedings? Is this intentional? Does what happens at C4 stay at C4? Does travel time or some other "adjustment" explain the delay? Whatever the reason, I'm looking forward to being able to be there in person next year! Bruce Smith

ERRATA. In David Fanning's article entitled "Early U.S. Auction Sales Containing Colonial Coins: Part II – 1859 to the Civil War" in the last C4 Newsletter, on page 17, in the paragraph beginninig "Two months later," there is the following line: "A coin catalogued as being a '1787 Nova Caesarea "E Pluribs" sold for \$4." This line should have read "A coin catalogued as being a '**1783** Nova Caesarea "E Pluribs" sold for \$4."

C4 Offers The Comprehensive Book

“John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage”

The second book published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4) is still available for purchase, *John Hull, The Mint and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage* by numismatic scholar Louis Jordon. This comprehensive book was released in 2002, the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the Massachusetts mint.

The book began with a request to write a chronology of the Massachusetts Mint for *The Colonial Newsletter*, Jordan writes. He started with Sylvester Crosby's *long* chapter on Massachusetts silver in *The Early Coins of America* but soon found many other references not in Crosby as well as other primary source material. One of the most revealing, Jordan writes, were the account books of John Hull which yielded very interesting information.

This book is a study of the mint at Massachusetts Bay and the economic factors that impacted it. In it, Jordan updates the documentation in Crosby by including the major edited sources and selected secondary research from the past 125 years. He has also put into historical context the economics and politics of the seventeenth century Massachusetts Bay Colony.

This book is the reference standard on Massachusetts Silver Coinage and will continue to be for years to come. The hardcover book with dust jacket has over 300 pages of information, illustrations, charts and photos. Contact Ray Williams, 924 Norway Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08629.

****THE FRENCH-AMERICAN CORNER****

Since we have started the French-American Corner, interest in French colonials used in the American Colonies has increased, perhaps helped by the recent sale of Bob Vlack's French Colonial Collection (Stack's Americana, 15 January 2008). Your editor would like to suggest some key reference material for this series. Others may wish to add to this list, and are invited to do so:

Adams, John W. *The Medals Concerning John Law and the Mississippi System*, New York, ANS, 2005 [Numismatic Notes and Monographs 167].

Breen, Walter. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, New York, NY: Doubleday, 1988, pp. 43-58. Perhaps the most commonly used text addressing coins that circulated in French North America (including coins recovered from the wreck of the *Le Chameau* off Cape Breton, Nova Scotia). It is sometimes criticized for being too inclusive in its definition of what constitutes a true French-American colonial (versus coins that incidentally circulated here).

Breen, Walter (Newman, Eric P. and Coty, Richard G, editors). "North American Colonial Coinages under the French Regime (1640-1763)," *Studies on Money in Early America*, New York:ANS, 1976, pp. 43-74. A predecessor to Breen's *Encyclopedia*, it is still interesting, and provides some insight into how his thinking of French-American colonials evolved.

Byrne, Ray. *Coins, Tokens & Medals From the West Indies*, an expanded, hard-copy version of the catalogue of his sale: Jess Peters, Inc. Sale No. 78, 1975. This auction is still a bench-mark for Caribbean coinage. It makes no particular claim to addressing coins that circulated in Canada and/or the U.S. but does provide examples of many of the coins that circulated throughout the Caribbean basin, including, presumably, the southern U.S. In my opinion, it is useful primarily in conjunction with texts such as Breen's *Encyclopedia* or Hodder's *Guide to the Coins of Nouvelle France*.

Ciani, Louis. *Les Monnaies Royales Francaises De Hugues Capet A Louis XVI*, Maastricht, Holland:Van der Dussen B.V., 1926. This is the classic text for determining the undertypes of French-American coins known as "old sols" (Breen 271) or "recoined billon sols" (Breen 276).

Gadoury, Victor. *Monnaies Royales Francaises 1610-1792*, Baden, Germany: Wessel Druckerei und Verlag, 1986. This text is particularly useful for providing date-mint analyses of many of the coin types that have been found in North America (especially Breen's Type 4 French Colonials).

Hodder, Michael. "An American Collector's Guide to the Coins of Nouvelle France," *Canada's Money*, New York:ANS, 1992, pp. 1-35. A well-researched article that discusses what coins can be properly considered to fall within the corpus of colonials for the French regions in what is now Canada and the U.S. Hodder takes issue with the broader interpretations of French-American coinage adopted by Breen.

Hoffmann, H. *Les Monnaies Royales De France Depuis Hugues Capet Jusqu'a Louis XVI*, Paris: Chez H. Hoffman, 1878.

John J. Ford, Jr. *Collection, Part XIII*, Public Auction Sale Catalogue, New York:Stack's Rare Coins, 16 January 2006. In this catalogue pp. 3-79 (lots 1-521) and pp. 95-105 (lots 581-618) provide Ford's collection of French Colonial Coins, including John Law pieces.

Kleeberg, John M. (editor). *Canada's Money*, New York:ANS, 1992. Contains numerous articles relating to Canadian coinage, including Hodder's above referenced work.

Leroux (1888)= Leroux, Jos. *Le Medaillier Du Canada (The Canadian Coin Cabinet)*, Montreal:Beauchemin et Fils, 1888. Strong on the jetons that circulated in Canada, as well as other medals that had distinct Canadian association.

Leroux (1892)= Leroux, Jos., *Le Medaillier Du Canada (The Canadian Coin Cabinet)*, Montreal:1892 [Winnipeg:Regency Coin and Stamp Reprint of 1964 by Canadian Numismatic Publishing Institute]. Adds John Law pieces as well as extending the section on colonial medals and jetons.

Sombart, Stephan. *Catalogue Des Monnaies Royales Francaises De Francois 1er A Henri IV (1540-1610)*, Luisant, France: 1997. Useful for determining the undertypes of "old sols" and "recoined billon sols." I find this book to be somewhat easier to use than Ciani, and it does cross-reference to Ciani numbers.

Stack's Americana Sale (2008). New York:Stack's Rare Coins, 15 January 2008, pp. 65-173. This public auction catalogue presents the Robert Vlack Collection of French Colonial Coins. It provides extensive, high-quality photographs of extremely rare and high-condition examples.

Vlack, Robert A. *An Illustrated Catalogue of The French Billon Coinage In The Americas*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004. The best available text describing the various billon coinage used in the French American colonies (including billon made for circulation throughout the Caribbean area), including black doggs, mousquetaires, sous marques, half-sou marques, Cayenne 2 sous, counterstamped billon, and contemporary counterfeits.

Wood, Howland, *The Coinage of the West Indies and the Sou Marque*, New York:ANS, 1915. [Note: exists as reprints in various formats.] Contains some useful information relative to sous marques and related coinage (e.g., countermarks) not found in Vlack.

Yeoman, R. S. (Kenneth Bressett, Editor). "French New World Issues," *The Official Red Book – A Guide Book of United States Coins, 59th Edition * 2006*, Atlanta: Whitman Publishing, LLC, 2005. pp. 49-51. A general listing and valuation, by type, of the most common coins thought to be of French-American relevance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW DUES INFORMATION.....

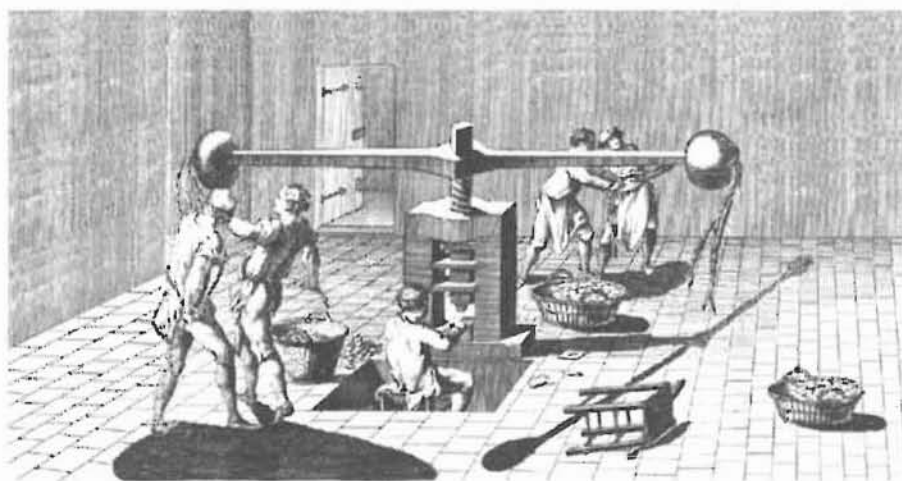
C4 dues have increased to \$25 per year!

We have suspended accepting Life Membership Applications while the C4 Board seeks advice with respect to restructuring the costs vs. expenses.



THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

A Research Journal in Early American Numismatics



Are you interested in the latest findings in the field of early American numismatics? If so, *The Colonial Newsletter (CNL)* is for you. Now in its 47th year, *CNL* has published some of the most important studies in this field. *CNL* is published three times a year by The American Numismatic Society (ANS). For more information contact Megan Fenselau at the ANS: e-mail fenselau@numismatics.org; telephone (212) 571-4470 Ext. 1311. Go to the ANS website at www.numismatics.org/cnl/ to subscribe online or download a subscription form.

PRICES REALIZED FOR THE FIRST SEGMENT OF THE MIKE RINGO LITERARY AUCTION, TO BENEFIT C4

The following table provides the number of bidders submitting a bid for each lot, and the winning bid for that lot. Each and every lot found a new home, with some being hotly contested. This was the first of a series of auctions being conducted by our Librarian, Leo Shane, so keep a watch for future auctions featuring additional material from Mike Ringo's collection.

C4 Library Auction #1

Ending 25 November 2007

A Selection of Non Colonial & Duplicate Colonial Books from the
Mike K. Ringo Library along with other Colonial Duplicates from the C4 Library

Lot	# of Bidders	Winning Bid*	Lot	# of Bidders	Winning Bid*
Lot #1	7	\$22.00	Lot #26	4	\$9.00
Lot #2	8	\$15.00	Lot #27	1	\$5.00
Lot #3	8	\$23.00	Lot #28	1	\$5.00
Lot #4	3	\$8.00	Lot #29	1	\$5.00
Lot #5	4	\$23.00	Lot #30	8	\$70.00
Lot #6	5	\$22.00	Lot #31	3	\$22.00
Lot #7	3	\$8.00	Lot #32	5	\$22.00
Lot #8	5	\$8.00	Lot #33	5	\$16.00
Lot #9	5	\$37.50	Lot #34	5	\$30.00
Lot #10	3	\$23.00	Lot #35	7	\$32.50
Lot #11	3	\$9.00	Lot #36	2	\$8.00
Lot #12	6	\$12.00	Lot #37	4	\$11.00
Lot #13	5	\$16.00	Lot #38	2	\$8.00
Lot #14	4	\$11.00	Lot #39	3	\$11.00
Lot #15	5	\$32.50	Lot #40	9	\$75.00
Lot #16	3	\$11.00	Lot #41	5	\$21.00
Lot #17	6	\$55.00	Lot #42	2	\$7.00
Lot #18	5	\$12.00	Lot #43	2	\$8.00
Lot #19	6	\$18.00	Lot #44	1	\$5.00
Lot #20	2	\$6.00	Lot #45	4	\$21.00
Lot #21	11	\$160.00	Lot #46	8	\$23.00
Lot #22	2	\$7.00	Lot #47	4	\$17.00
Lot #23	1	\$5.00	Lot #48	2	\$8.00
Lot #24	5	\$13.00	Lot #49	5	\$12.00
Lot #25	4	\$13.00	Lot #50	1	\$5.00
Auction Total					\$1,026.50

Note: 17 different winners, 25 different bidders

* Reduced to one increment over the second highest bid. Does not include Postage

C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

Part 1 of the Mike Ringo Literature Auction is now history. Please look elsewhere in this newsletter for the PRL and other information. *Thank You* to all who participated. The auction raised \$1026.50 for the club. There were also 4 lots from Mike's library that were sold at the convention auction as donated lots. These brought an additional \$975 bringing the total so far to \$2001.50. Part II of the auction will be in the next newsletter, so stay tuned.

I have just received about 20 books and slide sets from Mabel Ann Wright, the retiring Librarian of EAC. They are Colonial related items from the EAC library which is now going to the ANA. I will be cataloging these items and a list will appear in the next newsletter. Mabel Ann has given EAC 30+ years of service as the club librarian and has helped many, including me, to get started with early coins of America. *Thank You* Mabel Ann.

Thank You to all for your donations to the C4 Library. Your contributions are appreciated by all C4 members. Below are new items donated to the club which are now available for loan to all C4 members. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website www.colonialcoins.org.

Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogs:

Delmonte, A., *The Silver Benelux – Crowns, Half Crowns, Quarter Crowns and Siege Coins Struck in the Territories of the Northern and Southern Netherlands*, Chicago, IL: Argonaut Publishers, 1967 (In English & French). Donated by Syd Martin

Eccles, W.J., *The Canadian Frontier 1534 – 1760*, Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1992. Donated by Oliver Hoover

Parkman, Francis, *Montcalm and Wolf – The French and Indian War*, New York, NY: Barnes & Noble, 2005. Donated by Oliver Hoover

Jacobs, Wayne L., "The Saga of the Playing Card Money of New France," *Numismatica Canada*, vol. 4, no. 1, issue 13 (March 2005). Donated by Oliver Hoover

Convention Booklet for the 13th Annual C4 Convention, 29 November-2 December 2007, Boston, MA. Includes; schedule of events, bourse floor plan, president's message and exhibit list. Donated by Ray Williams

Stacks, John J. Ford Jr. *Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part XIX (US Fractional Currency, US Postage Envelopes, Autographs Ephemera and other Currency)*, New York, NY, 11 October 2007. Donated by Stacks

Stacks, *John J. Ford Jr. Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part XX (Western Territorial Americana, Bank Notes, Script Notes, Documents, Tokens, Medals and Ephemera)*, New York, NY, 16 October 2007. Donated by Stacks

Stacks, *John J. Ford Jr. Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part XXI (Western assayer's Ingots)*, New York, NY, 16 October 2007. Donated by Stacks

Stacks, *The Kroisos Collection and Other Important Properties*, New York, NY, 14 January 2008. Donated by Stacks

Stacks, *The Americana Sales – US Coins, Medals, Tokens and Paper Money*, New York, NY, 15-16 January 2008. Donated by Stacks

I would also like to thank the American Numismatic Society (ANS) for its ongoing donations of the *Colonial Newsletter* and the Early American Coppers Club (EAC) for donations of *Pennywise*.

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. Thank you, my e-mail is Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com or write to me at [REDACTED]



CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	\$50	\$80	\$105	\$130	4 1/2"x7 1/2"
1/2 page	\$30	\$55	\$75	\$95	4 1/2"x3 3/4"

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional \$10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file. All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.



David F. Fanning Numismatic Literature

Our latest Fixed Price List of numismatic literature can be downloaded in PDF form from our Web site at:

www.fanningbooks.com

Ed Sarrafian [REDACTED]
ershye@aol.com

1788 Mass cent 10-L VG \$70

~ gary@grollcoins.com ~ www.grollcoins.com

Email: oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca

Bob Merchant,

FOR SALE: CD, Special Edition 5.0, High-resolution digital images of my reference collection of Contemporary Counterfeit British & Irish 1/2d & 1/4d, well over 1,000 different specimens. Organized by Major Type, Date and Families where appropriate, with additional material on Major Errors and Die Breaks...\$55 post paid. Registered buyers, if you'd like, will be added to a distribution list that will receive updates by email with images attached of new specimens of major varieties and Families as they are identified. For more information, see http://www.geocities.com/copperclem/Counterfeits_page3.html

Clem Schettino, [REDACTED]. copperclem@comcast.net

An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas"
by Robert Vlack

C4 Offers Outstanding Vlack Book on French Colonial Coins. The third monograph published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4) has been released, *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas* by the noted numismatist Robert A. Vlack. This is the first comprehensive guide to the billon coinages that circulated in the French colonies of the Americas, which included Canada, Louisiana and the French West Indies. An 18-page introduction discusses the history of the coins and includes a rarity listing of the various counterstamped billon coins authorized for use in Canada during the seventeenth century. This is followed by an extensive and well-illustrated catalogue of the coins (pp. 20-157) reflecting more than 30 years of research by Vlack on this topic. The catalog proceeds from the *Mosquetaires* of 30 and 15 *deniers* to the billon *Sous Marqués* and Half-*Sous Marqués* and then to contemporary counterfeits. It next includes a full listing of billon coinage and counterstamped billon coins of the French West Indies, as well as a discussion of the coins known as “black doggs.” The work was amended and edited by Philip L. Mossman with typesetting and graphic design by Gary Trudgen.

In the catalogue every denomination is divided into sections, one section for each of the various French mints producing that denomination; some denominations were issued from as many as 30 different mints! Each mint section contains an explanation of all the mintmasters and engravers associated with that mint during the years of issue. The specific coins from the mint are then cataloged by year with annotations on mintage, rarity and variants. There are numerous illustrations with enlarged details of overdates and errors that are especially useful to the user in identification. This is the first time such information has been made available in English.

To order, contact Charles Davis, P.O. Box 547, Wenham, MA 01984 or at Numislit@aol.com, Tel: 978-468-2933; Fax: 978-468-7893. The price of the book is \$50US; and shipping is \$5.00 within the US, \$12 to Canada, and \$20 to Europe.



We offer tokens for every pocketbook and interest from the rare and spectacular to those used in everyday commerce. Our website and occasional lists will provide you with an ever growing and eclectic selection for your consideration.

Larry Gaye: 503-579-6416
ANA Life Member #5574
CTCC #55

Email: cheapsidetokenws@vcoins.com
FAX: 503-350-2320



1652 PT 12d, Noe 29, Sm. Plan. VF detail, scattered roughness but decent: \$2,500.
 1652 PT 12d, Noe 2 (R5+) AU, Ex Lg Plan. List \$14K, reduced to \$8,500.
 1652 Willow Tree shilling. Noe 3-D, R-7+, (VF Detail) Genuine, Light tooling in ¼ inch patch.
 NGC/NCS Bold Date and Denomination (Red Book list \$175K) (\$86K – call or write)
 1652 Pine Tree three pence, Noe 37, Small 5, Nice Sharp XF/AU coin. Original luster of russet, smoky
 blue and gray. Red Book list \$8K – only \$4,495.
 1670 St. Patrick Farthing, AU/UNC w/razor sharp details – every jewel on crown, harpstrings are extra
 bold. Mostly smooth and glossy with green patina, like Roman coin. NGC/NCS genuine
 w/corrosion; X-rare (R7+), slight rub. . . Au lists at \$8,500, UNC lists at \$20K – only \$4,800.
 Another VF/XF \$1,250.
 1723 Rosa Americana twopence. AU, light/medium brown. Nelson 14. Nice. Lists for \$2K, only \$1,250 –
 less than Red Book XF.

1766 Pitt Token. Rarely for sale. VF/XF, near perfect. \$2,100. Another, MS65, razor sharp – unheard of at this level, ultra smooth (dream coin) and exceptional detail, exquisite, \$12,000

VERMONT COPPERS

1786 Vermontensium, RR6; XF+ detail. Typical Vermont planchet problems. Bold sun face, etc. \$1,295.

1787 Vermont RR27, XF/AU choice surfaces, exceptional. Date fully on planchet. Only \$1,450.

1786 – Vermontensium, RR6; XF/AU. An exceptional VT, \$4,500.

1786 – Vermontensium, RR5; R-5+, V. Rare. NGC XF detail, Lovely \$2,750. Excellent eye appeal.

NEW JERSEY COPPERS

1787 M6-D Large planchet (NGC –AU Detail, corroded) – razor sharp, but slightly fuzzy. Rev is full unc, looks great~ List \$3,000, only \$895.

1786 NJ “Bridle Variety”, Maris 18-M. Super wide planchet, nice light brown. AU/UNC with best of strikes. NGC Genuine – superb coin on all levels. Bridle very clear. Reduced to \$4,750.

1788 NJ “Running Fox” Maris 78-DD VF/XF (R5+; 30+ known). Smooth and glossy with strong fox. Important unique variety; R.B. lists at \$4.5K, only \$2,100 [Other NJ coppers if interested.]

MASSACHUSETTS

1787 Mass ½ cent PCGS XF40. Ryder 4-C; Gorgeous smooth, glossy. Lists for \$1,200, only \$1,100.

Mass 1 cent, AU+ Ryder 6-N (Rarity 5 – Rare). Hard, smooth, glossy, golden brown surfaces. Scattered tiny plan voids or porosity that only slightly detract. List \$2,750, a bargain at \$1,250.

Mass 1 cent, 1788 Ryder 1-D, XF/AU. Bold date, full kilt lines. Laquered to hide light granularity. Lists at \$2,750, only \$750.

WASHINGTON TOKENS

Washington Double Head – VF20, Nice light brown problem free, lists \$275, only \$195. Another AU, list \$1,150, only \$795.

1791 Washington Small Eagle. AU Red/Mahogany Patina. Lists for \$2,000, reduced to \$1,450.

Washington Success Medal. Lg Plan (Baker 265). NGC XF45. Some original silvering remains in Recesses. Rare as such. With XF40 @ \$1,000,

AU50 @ \$2,300 and pieces w/silvering 25-50% more, this should be an opportunity @ \$1,450.

1799 Washington Funeral Medal, Urn type struck in silver. 147.2 grains. Baker 166A. EX. Rare in silver (R-6, 13-30 known), \$2,795.

Washington Sansom Medal, B-71A. Original Bronze; 40.7mm. Super mahogany red-brown toning. Unc w/ slight cabinet rub. Impressive. Exceptional for only \$1,950.

1795 North Wales 1/2d, PCGS VF35. Breen 1294. X-Rare variety with +/-10 known. This is arguably the finest. Truly a prize with smooth, glossy mark-free surfaces and light brown toning. Only \$1,950.

Washington Double Head, Choice Problem Free AU. Listed at \$1,150, this is only \$925. A second, choice smooth problem free VF only \$200 with a list in VF of \$275. Both are a creamy light brown.

EARLY COINAGE

1786 Castorland, 14.6 gms. In silver. Early restrike w/P.E. Centers bulge (Diagnostic of First restrikes). Proof or PL, MS-65 or better. Lovely russet amber toning w/cartwheel luster. A lesser XF+ recently sold at ANR Auction for \$1,900; this only \$950.

1781 North American Tokens – all nice. PCGS VF-35 for \$590. Raw: VF-20 for \$250 and F for \$100.

1688 American Plantations Token. Original, near uncirculated, minimal tin test. Newman 4-E (no die cracks). Full detail. \$1,500. Razor sharp detail. Priced at restrike level.

1792 Kentucky, NGC EF45, looks AU. Smooth, glossy & mark free- choice. Below RB AU! @ \$525.

1783 Nova Constellatio Blunt Rays. Full Bold strike. XF40/45. Nice strong date. List \$1,500, this \$995

1783 Nova Constellatio, Crosby 1-A, Breen 1106. Large U.S., Pointed rays. AU. Obv has greenish discolor on 20% and scattered small flan voids. Lists at \$3,200, only \$795.

1785 Nova Constellatio, Crosby 1-B, Breen 1110. Blunt rays. Nice XF w/Average strike. Weak U.S. w/ large cud in wreath. Lists \$1,750, only \$995.

1785 Nova Constellatio. X-Rare, Sm. Dt. VF 20/25, R6. Pt. Rays – Key Coin [Crosby 2-A]; lists for \$4,000; only \$3,450.

1760 VOCE POPULI coppers: (1) XF, Nelson 4 “Imperial Head” (scarcce) Lt, even micro-granularity. \$450; (2) “P” in front of face. Roughness at top of head. Nelson-12. XF. Scarce, \$750.

1794 Myddleton Token Mule (Breen 1077). 1800s restrike, X-rare. NGC Proof 64 Gem Ultra Cameo. Original dies. Beautiful strike & complicated design. Exceptional Finest? Massively reduced at \$3,900.

- 1787 NY Excelsior, Eagle's Head Right ("Sinister Eagle"). R-7 (Breen: "X-rare, virtually all specimens low grade and damaged.") Just misses XF (VF-35); NGC/NCS Corroded VF. Strong overall detail despite minor problems. Light, scattered granularity near rim. Still good eye appeal – probably #2 coin. 90% smooth and glossy with hints of mint red. \$25,000 [Recently, an Excelsior in fine/corroded, holed, sold for \$16,000]
- 1787 Immunis Columbia, Eagle Reverse. VF/XF Light Scattered granularity. Good eye appeal. (List \$7,500) \$4,950. Excellent detail. V. Rare. The only affordable Immunis.
- 1787 Fugio, N-10-T. "One over One" variety (R6, 12-30 known). Fine+, smooth with minor reverse scratch. . . \$1,250.
- 1795 NY TAL. NGC Proof 64 Bn – a gem, probable #1 (R7). 1794 Proofs exist and are rare, 1795's even rarer. Razor-sharp light brown iridescence. Perhaps the 1st proof made specifically for the U.S. Worth \$12,500; bargain priced at \$4,995
- 1758 George II French and Indian Wars (Betts 416), VF+. Medal tastefully lists British and American victors. Copper, 43mm. Smooth and glossy with a few scattered contact marks. Rare., reduced to \$495
- 1781 Libertas Americana (Betts 615). An American classic, personally commissioned/ designed by Ben Franklin. 47.88mm; XF with a few hairlines and ticks. Own a legend for only \$9,500.
- 1817 James Monroe Indian Peace Medal (Julian IP-8). Original large size -- 76mm; bronze. UNC with slightest cabinet rub. Fantastic Orange/Bronze. Great eye appeal. Inexpensive and very rare. Only \$1,250
- 1694 Elephant Token, Thick Planchet. VG/F \$350.

NEW ITEMS:

- Park Theatre Token, N.Y. (1817 obv, PAID rev), MS63 or better. Rulau 6475, N.Y. 41-A. Gorgeous light cream butternut brown. \$425.
- 1789 Mott Token, Breen 1022. R7 (Ex Rare) "CENT" Variety, weighs 15.1 grams (not the thick variety). AU/IUNC, light cream brown. \$3,950.
- 1794 T.A.L. w/NY. Unc w/slightest rub. Deep red-brown. Uneven field surfaces around Miss Liberty's top half. Lists for \$1,900, only \$725.
- 1763 – NUNCIA PACIS (Messenger of Peace) Peace treaty ending French & Indian War. Betts 446 in silver. Fabulous design. Prooflike Unc with blue, rose, white and silver toning. Ex Rare. \$1,950.

Many more medals and coins available. Please call or write for catalog. Authenticity guaranteed for life. All coins are returnable for seven days – no reason needed – as long as they are not damaged or pulled from slab/holder. Satisfaction guaranteed. ALWAYS BUYING. Frank Vivalo, [REDACTED]. [Terms can be arranged for large-ticket items.]

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